

Eye on the White House?

Vermont governor announces he won't seek re-election, may run for top job.

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Harmless sharks

Two gay artists contribute to San Jose art exhibit.

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Homage to the species

Lily Tomlin on 'Search for Signs of Intelligent Life.'

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Terror, tragedy hit close to home



MCC-SF opened its doors for prayer and communion Tuesday following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

San Francisco gay man may have fought with hijackers

by Ed Walsh

Friends and family of a San Francisco gay man say they're convinced he was among a group of passengers who heroically turned the tables on hijackers, forcing them to avoid their intended target.

Mark Bingham, 31, was on United Airlines Flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey to San Francisco when it crashed into a field in Pennsylvania Tuesday morning, September 11. Many have speculated that the plane with 45 people on board may have been headed for the Camp David presidential retreat or another high-profile target.

Hijacked airlines earlier in the morning struck the World Trade Center twin towers in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

His mother, Alice Hoglan, said Bing-



Mark Bingham

ham called her from an air phone about 10 to 15 minutes before the plane crashed. Bingham told her that three men had overtaken the plane and said they had bombs. Hoglan said she's sure her son thwarted the hijackers. Hoglan said that Bingham was once attacked on a San Francisco street and wrestled his attackers to the ground.

"It gives me a great deal of comfort to know my son may have been able to avert the killing of many, many, innocent people," Hoglan told reporters who gathered Tuesday night at her South Bay home.

Bingham had been a member of the San Francisco Fog Rugby Football Club, an organization that bills itself as "the first club in the western United States established to invite members from traditionally underrepresented

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Pottery Barn set to open in the Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

Attracted by community activists as the penultimate sign of the "straightening" of the Castro, Pottery Barn will open its largest store in San Francisco this weekend when it welcomes customers to its location in the city's gay district.

Located at 2390 Market Street, the site of the old San Francisco Fireman's Credit Union building at the corner of Market and Castro, the company's fourth retail outlet in the city is two floors and nearly 11,000 square feet.

"For a lot of us that corner is what people first see when they come to the Castro. And what are they going to be greeted by - a Pottery Barn? Give me a break," said Tommi Avicoli Mecca, a 10-year Castro resident and housing activist. "It should be a community center or something queer that greets them."

Even before the store officially opens for business at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 15, the company is going out of its way to mitigate such criticism that it does not belong in the Castro.

"We are really sincere about our intention to be a part of the community and address its needs - not just from a commercial point of view, but from a community view," Laura Alber, executive vice president of the Pottery Barn brand, told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week. "We are your community. We are here and we are going to be a very fun and helpful member of the community."

The company, a division of Williams-Sonoma Inc. since 1986, has already donated \$100,000 toward a community meeting room in the area. Located at 501 Castro Street above the Bank of America branch, the space will be



The new Pottery Barn at Market and Castro.

made available to community groups and non-profit organizations. The Merchants of Upper Market and Castro have already begun using the space for its meetings.

"They have been very proactive and instrumental in securing funding for the Castro community meeting room for five years," said Patrick Batt, MUMC president and owner of Mercury Mail Order and Auto-Erotica. "There wasn't any space in the neighborhood for non-profits to meet, so we really needed a central space where people or groups could hold meet-

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Terrorist attacks in New York, Washington

by Bob Roehr

The massive assault by terrorists on Tuesday, September 11 on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., has affected gay and lesbian Americans as it has their fellow countrymen. We will no doubt hear more of the personal tragedies and heroism as time allows those stories to become known and told. But there also are immediate effects as well as fears for the future.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is headquartered at 120 Wall Street in the financial district. And the American Foundation for AIDS Research has offices in the same building. It is a half-mile or so from what used to be the WTC complex.

The Wall Street building was evacuated after the second plane hit the WTC but before either tower collapsed. "Our lobby was full of that terrible smoke, dust, and particles from the buildings," said Peg Byron, communications director for Lambda. "Here was this incredibly beautiful day, and we walked outside and it was like winter. It was dark, the air was heavy with this stuff."

Byron spoke of walking along the east side of Manhattan toward her home to Chelsea. Most people were trying to cover their nose and mouth with shirts to screen out the noxious

particles. She was under the elevated FDR Drive and did not see the towers collapse, but colleagues walking home across the Brooklyn Bridge saw the horrific spectacle.

Activist attorney Bill Dobbs lives just below Greenwich Village in SoHo, about 15 blocks from the WTC. "A neighbor told me that the second tower had collapsed. That just seemed beyond comprehension." He grabbed his bike about 10:30 that morning and pedaled down toward City Hall.

"There wasn't panic, but incredulity on the streets down there," said Dobbs. "My most vivid memory is of the silt and sediment" that filled the air. "It was fine in texture, very uniform, light beige in color. All I could think of was cremated remains. It's inches deep on the streets down there."

He grabbed a few sheets of paper that were strewn everywhere. One carried an address of the 99th floor of the WTC, about a quarter mile up in the air. "It had made its way down from a place that no longer exists."

That evening, walking around Chelsea, the streets were half deserted, cars and taxis sparse, gay bars stopped playing music videos, tuned to news coverage, and patrons sat rapt, said Byron. She saw "yellow school buses lined up for medical triage," to carry the wounded to medical facilities, but unfortunately there were few survivors

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Shanti riders head out



Jane Philomen Cleland

Soni Wolf, the number one pledge-getter in last year's Ride for Life, sponsored by Shanti, gets ready to take to the streets at this year's event held Saturday, September 8. The motorcycle ride started in San Francisco and headed north across the Golden Gate Bridge to the Russian River area. Wolf is expected to be among the top fundraisers of this year's event as well, which included hundreds of participants.

COLAGE TG picnic Sun.

by Katie Szymanski

Gender bending may be all the rage these days, but for many transgenders, living outside the "norm" is a core part of their existence that they still must fight to express. It is a special group of loved ones, therefore, that make up our community's diverse and resilient transgender households.

Recognizing that the transgender family unit is a very special kinship, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) will host the fifth annual Transgender Family Picnic this Sunday, Sep-

tember 16, in Dolores Park. All transgender families and friends are invited to attend this event, the only early gathering of its kind in the Bay Area.

"My daughters enjoyed it and had a wonderful time. Everyone always has a good time," remarked Roxanne Bourbonnais, a picnic attendee for the past few years. "It's a warm atmosphere; it's always a pleasure."

The picnic includes activities for all ages and a barbecue. Participants are asked to bring food to grill and to share, and be prepared to "have fun, eat, and socialize with others for this unique Bay Area community gathering."

according to organizers. The event is also a great way to get to know the folks at COLAGE, the only organization in the world specifically supporting young people with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents. Housed in San Francisco's Women's Building, COLAGE provides a variety of services, from organizing activists, to hosting elementary and middle school social groups, to connecting pen pals around the country.

The transgender family picnic is from noon until 4 p.m. near the children's playground in Dolores Park. For more information, call COLAGE at (415) 861-5437. ▼

Transgender activist Denise D'Anne to receive women's award next week

by Katie Szymanski

Community activist Denise D'Anne is scheduled to be among those honored at the "Women Who Make A Difference" awards presented by the Commission on the Status of Women next Friday, September 21.

Like all of the women honored at the ceremony – including Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, who will receive the commission's esteemed President's Award – D'Anne is a leader whose history of outreach, action, and accomplishment spans many years. But unlike other honorees, past or present, D'Anne is openly transgender, a status that has not hindered her experience as a woman but one

that is often the target of discrimination in women's circles. The award, acknowledges D'Anne, is significant for transgenders everywhere.

"It's definitely important," D'Anne told the Bay Area Reporter, "that we get recognized as a valuable part of society."

D'Anne's community involvement goes back more than 30 years and is rooted in women's causes, the labor movement, and the environment. Recommended for the award for her work with the Senior Action Network, she has helped to organize within unions, work with chapters of the National Organization for Women, and even create and launch the Commission on the Status of Women itself.

"I helped write the ordinance that established the commission," said D'Anne. "I've really been there from the beginning on that one. Women's rights and labor rights were my start, and I've been there ever since. As for the environmental movement, I think there's a big connection there for women interested in social change; there's already evidence that a lot of breast cancers are caused by pollution."

D'Anne – perhaps more wide-

ly known as a San Francisco building commissioner, and as a recent candidate for city supervisor in District 6 – said she is honored by the award, bestowed annually by the commission to individuals and businesses that have made a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. Also receiving the award is Supervisor Maxwell; Inspector Lynne Atkinson of the San Francisco Police Department; Lynn Fang, a social worker for Self-Help for the Elderly; Julie Posadas, coordinator of Girls Services of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department; and Myeshia Grice, outreach coordinator for California Youth Connection. The business to be honored this year is Morrison & Foerster, LLP.

The "Women Who Make A Difference" awards are scheduled to take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Gabbiano's Restaurant, 1 Ferry Plaza, in San Francisco. Individual tickets start at \$75; non-profit tickets go for \$60, and a table of 10 is \$700. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, call (415) 4653. For best availability, it is suggested that those interested in attending RSVP by Friday, September 14. ▼

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These sharks won't bite

Gay artists contribute to San Jose effort

by Matthew S. Bajko

With people's fears about sharks heightened this summer by reports of fatal attacks on swimmers, two gay San Jose artists hope their art paints the ocean predators in a different light.

"We are taking an animal that people think of as vicious and are afraid of and turning it into an object of beauty. I think it really works," said Ed Clapp, whose "Glam Shark" design is one of 100 sharks adorning San Jose's downtown. "You kind of reconsider what a shark is. It is something beautiful and can be adorned like a Mardi Gras float."

Artist Paul Hance's "School of Neighbors" shark also aims to diffuse the notion of sharks as human enemy. He decorated his shark with more than 60 human faces.

"What I proposed was a shark covered in faces that represented the multicultural ethnic identity of San Jose," said Hance.



Paul Hance with his Sharkbyte piece "School of Neighbors"

Their shark sculptures are part of San Jose's Sharkbyte Art project, a community fundraiser in which 100 6-foot long, 4 and a half foot tall fiberglass sharks have been placed throughout San Jose's

downtown. Modeled after the "Cows on Parade" art exhibits in Chicago and New York, the exhibition will be on display through October. In November, the sharks will

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Pride survey shows comfort with 'queer'

by Matthew S. Bajko

When organizers picked "Queerific" for the theme of Pride 2001, it sparked heated debate about using a word with a derogatory connotation for the annual celebration. While some in the gay community still find the term "queer" offensive, this year's Pride survey shows many people are embracing the word.

Over two-thirds of respondents (68 percent) said they were either "comfortable" (26 percent) or "very comfortable" (42 percent) when asked "How do you feel about the word 'queer' to describe our community?"

"Clearly, the community is reclaiming what was once a term of abuse and stripping it, and those who would harm us, of their power to do so," said Cecilia Chung, Pride president.

The survey also showed a marked decline in the number of people who said they were offended by the word during last year's Pride when 14 percent of respondents said they were uncomfortable with the term. This year, only 6 percent said they were "uncomfortable" and 4 percent said they were "very uncomfortable."

In addition, 8.5 percent of the people described themselves as queer when asked "What is your sexual identity?" more than dou-

ble the number compared to last year. Those using the term queer were spread across all ages and genders.

While the use of the word queer may be up, the amount of tourist dollars spent at Pride 2001 was down. Along with the Pride survey results released last week, Pride organizers announced they saw a 23 percent drop in tourist revenues citywide from 2000 Pride, which garnered a record \$150 million in tourist spending. This year's pride earned \$14 million in tourist dollars.

"Last year, times were good. The economy was at an all-time high and this coupled with it being the 30th anniversary of the event led to a record number of visitors and a record economic impact for the city," said Chung. "I think what we are seeing this year is the restoration of a more normal pattern."

Survey respondents did not seem phased by the economic downturn during Pride. When asked how many vacations they were planning in the year ahead, 72.8 percent planned to take two or more compared with 72.6 percent the year before. And 69 percent of those quizzed said they planned to return to San Francisco.

Pride heralded good news for the city's hotel operators and city beam counters. Pride generated 84,000 hotel room nights, \$2 million in hotel tax revenue and

\$170,278 for the city's Grants for the Arts program.

"San Francisco's Pride celebration is a long-standing tradition from which the city benefits annually. Not only does the event generate measurable economic impact, it also creates further awareness of San Francisco's warm hospitality to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities," said John Marks, San Francisco Conventions & Visitors Bureau president.

The survey also dealt with another target of criticism at Pride – the level of corporate sponsorship. This year protesters attacked the festival as too corporate and held a separate parade and festival as an alternative to the Civic Center Pride activities.

According to the Pride survey, nearly half of all respondents – 26.14 percent who approved and 22.06 percent who strongly approved – said they were comfortable with the level of sponsorship of the event. Less than 20 percent of people asked said they objected and 33.09 percent said they neither objected nor approved.

"San Francisco Pride is very careful about the level of sponsorship present at the event. The results indicate most people agree that the agency has struck a reasonable balance between community and corporate participation," said Teddy Witherington, Pride executive director. ▶

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RICK GERHARTER

Recipients of the Stop AIDS Project's annual HIV Prevention Awards were feted at a celebration of food, drink, entertainment, and dancing Monday, September 10 in downtown San Francisco. Honorees from left are: Dr. Tricia Cibbs, Clark Taylor, Michael Lauro, and Donna Saffioti-Johnson. Each have contributed to HIV prevention by their community work, running a free clinic, and HIV education and prevention work with schools and youth. The evening was a benefit for the Stop AIDS Project.

Activists who minister to gays at religious schools to visit SF

by Cynthia Laird

Dolores Street Baptist Church in conjunction with Heartstrong Inc., a non-sectarian outreach organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people who attend religious schools, will host gay rights activists Marc Adams and his partner, Troy Tuttle, at Bethany United Methodist Church in San Francisco this Tuesday, September 18.

Adams and Tuttle, who attended Jerry Falwell's Liberty University, founded Heartstrong several years ago in an effort to reach out to GLBT students who attend religious schools such as those operated by right wing Christians, the Catholic Church, and others.

"When we first began, this work, we were sure of our mission but unsure of the depth of ability to penetrate such a closed off forgotten world," said Adams in recounting the early days of the organization. "We got into our car and had two goals. First we wanted to do everything possible to get our information accessible to students dealing with being GLBT who were attending abusive religious educational institutions. Second, we wanted to begin a massive effort to educate the gen-

eral public about what happens in these schools if you are discovered or suspected of being GLBT."

Tuttle recalled the commitment the pair made to begin what has come to be the only outreach of its kind in the world. "We just walked away from everything that was comfortable. We knew that we had to become the voice of hundreds of thousands of GLBT students at these schools who could not yet speak for themselves. We knew that we had to let these students, our brothers and sisters, know that they are not alone and that there is love, peace, and happiness in life for them."

Since January 1998, Adams and Tuttle have traveled the United States and parts of Canada by car, raising public awareness to the issue of gay students at religious schools and reaching out to those who need their encouragement and understanding. So far, they have logged 180,000 miles in their outreach effort. They estimate that they have helped about 800 students.

Gay students attending religious schools that are intolerant run a risk of suicide, Adams and Tuttle pointed out. "Every day, we learn of more and more students who need us to be their voice," said Tuttle. "The suicides and attempts are escalating in the envi-

ronments but we also see the effects of our continuous efforts in the well-adjusted, peaceful lives that many former students of these schools are now living."

"We know that we are effective because we can speak their language," said Adams. "Having been students at some of these schools ourselves, we know what it is like to be gay and live and study in environments that are unbelievably oppressive and abusive. We also went through the process of trying to become ex-gay ourselves many years ago. That is another point in our personal histories that draws students to Heartstrong."

Adams said Heartstrong's goal is not to change the schools themselves. "Our efforts are not to change the schools or their leaders. We are here to reach out to the students and provide the information they need to live." ▼

Bethany United Methodist Church is located at the corner of Noe and Clipper streets in San Francisco. The event begins at 7 p.m. and donations will be accepted. For more information, call Ross Hayduk or Rick Mixon, interim pastor at Dolores Street Baptist Church, at (415) 826-2641.

GAWK hosting men's rap session Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

GAWK — the Gay Artists and Writers Collective — is hosting a men's discussion group this Sunday, September 16, at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

GAWK's founder, Jon Sugar,

said that the upcoming rap session will focus on writing and performing. Sugar noted that his groups are unconventional. A GAWK event can include stand-up comedy, prose readings, songs, strippers, etc.

"GAWK is for funsters, scneoids, listeners, artwrecks, networking, help, parties, and talent," Sugar said. "If you think of

GAWK, you're in GAWK."

Since 1985 GAWK has brought together gay artists and writers, some of whom have had material published.

Sunday's event starts at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 317-31st Avenue at Clement Street. For more information, call Sugar at (415) 731-2424. ▼

Log on to live long

New Web site means no more excuses for missed screenings

by Katie Szymanski

If you're a lesbian who hasn't seen a gynecologist in a while, that's hardly news; studies have shown that women who are sexual minorities have a difficult time finding and accessing non-judgmental, quality care.

But what may come as a surprise is the fact that lesbians, despite engaging in little or no heterosexual sex, still need to get annual Pap smears.

The human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes genital warts, cervical dysplasia, and occasional cervical cancer, is present in one out of every eight lesbians, according to a recent study from the University of Washington. The study – involving 248 women who reported not having sex with a man in over a year, or never having sex with a man – found that while 13 percent of these women tested positive for HPV (with 4 percent showing pre-cancerous changes), 10 percent had never had a Pap smear, and about 23 percent had not had a Pap smear in three years. Many lesbians do not get annual Pap smears because they are perceived to be at low-risk for sexually transmitted diseases. Others are under-insured, and still others have fresh memories of bad experiences at previous appointments.

But Gallup Poll data from the year 2000 showed 78 percent of women who received screening reminders were likely to schedule a doctor's appointment, compared to only 47 percent of those who did not receive such reminders, suggesting another factor at work when it comes to de-

layed screenings. Enter the College of American Pathologists, which earlier this summer launched a Web site aimed at early detection of cancer. The Web site – at www.MyHealthTestReminder.com – provides registrants with e-mailed notices when it's time to get screened for colon, cervical, and breast cancer.

"Timing is critical when it comes to cancer," said a statement from Dr. Paula Szypko, a pathologist with the organization. "Even though consumers may know that early cancer detection saves lives, many say they are 'too busy' or simply 'forget' to schedule their regular screenings."

This year, 12,900 cases of cervical cancer are expected to be diagnosed, and 4,400 women will die from the disease. Risk factors include having multiple sexual partners or partnering with a man who had multiple female partners; having genital warts; having sexual relations before the age of 18; and having a previous abnormal Pap test. Symptoms include abnormal vaginal bleeding or spotting, abnormal discharge, and pain, but a Pap test can detect precancerous cells before they turn deadly. Eighty percent of those who die from cervical cancer have not had a Pap test in over five years.

Lesbians, who may be at higher risk for breast cancer, should also know that over 238,000 cases will be diagnosed this year, and 40,000 lives will be lost to the disease. All women are at risk for breast cancer, but factors like a family history, early menstruation, and late or no childbirth may increase the danger. Although self-exams are important, finding a

lump usually means it has been growing for years. A mammogram can usually detect a lump long before a person can. All women over 20 should perform self-exams, women over 40 should receive annual clinical exams, and women over 50 should get regular mammograms. Women at a higher risk for the disease should begin having these exams earlier.

Also in 2001, approximately 102,000 people will die from colon cancer, which can be treated if detected early through a variety of tests, usually beginning at the age of 50. Symptoms include a change in bowel habits, blood in the stool, abdominal discomfort, and unexplained weight loss, but the cancer is most successfully treated if caught before symptoms appear.

According to data from the 2000 Gallup Poll, over 60 percent of women who did not get notices for cancer screenings said they would be more likely to schedule such appointments if they received a reminder. MyHealthTestReminder.com provides the notices for free, and also allows concerned friends and family to register loved ones for the service. Registering takes just a few minutes, and if survey data is correct, could save more than a few lives.

"It was surprising that a simple reminder had such a huge impact on the health of so many people," said Szypko, referring to the gap in screenings between those who received notices from their doctors and those who did not. "It became obvious that something had to be done to help busy patients remember to schedule their potentially life-saving tests." ▼

Mexican Independence Day in San Jose

by Katie Szymanski

September 16 sparks the festivities for Mexican Independence Day, the holiday that rivals the Fourth of July when our neighbors to the south host parades, parties, rodeos, and fireworks to mark the anniversary of splitting from Spanish rule. A celebration that has become larger than Cinco de Mayo, Mexican Independence Day is also observed in the United States, particularly in California and other border states where immigrant families abound.

Because no family celebration would be complete without hand-some men and loud music, the gay Latino support groups "Entre Hombres" and "Pro-Latino" have

announced a "Tardeada," or traditional Mexican evening gathering, this Sunday, September 16, from 4 to 10 p.m. at the Foxtail bar in San Jose. The event will feature food, an Aztec dance presentation, and a drag show hosted by Miss Pro Latino Dulce Veneno. Dance music will pervade the space courtesy of DJ Mike of Club Papi fame.

A \$5 admission fee will be charged at the door; proceeds benefit AIDS Resources, Information, and Services (ARIS), a major HIV/AIDS prevention and service organization in Santa Clara County. ARIS, in conjunction with Pro-Latino, has for years run the program "Proyecto Pyramide," reaching over 4,000 gay and bisexual Latino men, including over 1,600 youth, through outreach and workshops designed

to increase community involvement in HIV prevention. Entre Hombres, which also meets at ARIS, is a support group for gay and questioning Latino men interested in talking to other men like themselves. ARIS hosts Latino-specific programs conducted in both English and Spanish; visit www.aris.org for more information.

The Foxtail bar is located at 551 West Julian Street, behind the San Jose Arena. Sponsors of the Mexican Independence Day party include Rainbow Travel, the Watergarden, OutNow newsmagazine, Point newspaper, and Club Papi. Everyone 21 years of age and older is welcome to attend. For more information about the event, call (408) 293-2747, ext. 114. ▼

Latino group to present HIV/AIDS awards

by Matthew S. Bajko

A Mission District-based gay community organization will present its first Por Vida Awards this weekend. The awards will honor individuals working with the San Francisco Bay Area's Latina/o, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, and gay community.

Presenting the awards is Projeto ContraSIDA Por Vida, a

sex-positive, neighborhood-based, multigender, community building organization for the city's queer Latina/o population. PCPV is located at 2973 16th Street.

The organization will honor four local individuals who have responded to HIV and AIDS in the Latina/o community through either art, activism or service. Those being honored include singer Alberta "Teresita La Campesina" Nevaerez, artist Celia

Herrera Rodriguez, clinical social worker Carmen Madriz, and Donna Rae Palmer, executive director of Mobilization Against AIDS International.

The ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. Sunday September 16 at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida Street in San Francisco. Tickets for the event cost between \$35 to \$50 and are priced on a sliding scale. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 415-864-7278. ▼

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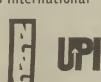
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A changed world

Tuesday's horrific terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. will never be forgotten. After three hijacked commercial airlines crashed into their targets, scores of people are missing and presumed dead, hundreds more are confirmed dead. A fourth flight, destined for San Francisco, crashed in a Pennsylvania field; presumably, the hijackers were thwarted in their effort as it's believed that the flight had an intended target.

The nation — indeed the world — is stunned by this week's catastrophic carnage. The death and destruction that played out on television Tuesday makes clear that the world as we know it has just undergone a dramatic change, the outcome of which probably won't be clear for some time. Air travel is likely to undergo a dramatic change when flights resume. Other security changes are also inevitable.

It is important to remember, however, that this country was founded on the principles of freedom, and that our Constitution contains many protections for that freedom. The nation cannot abandon that freedom or we will be bowing to the terrorists. A balance must be struck and America — as countless officials have pointed out — will survive.

What is clear is that while the government must investigate and bring to justice those responsible, it is imperative that people exhibit tolerance. At press time we don't know for certain who is responsible. Speculation is high that the attacks were planned by Osama bin Laden, a Saudi billionaire currently hiding in Afghanistan who's suspected of carrying out similar attacks.

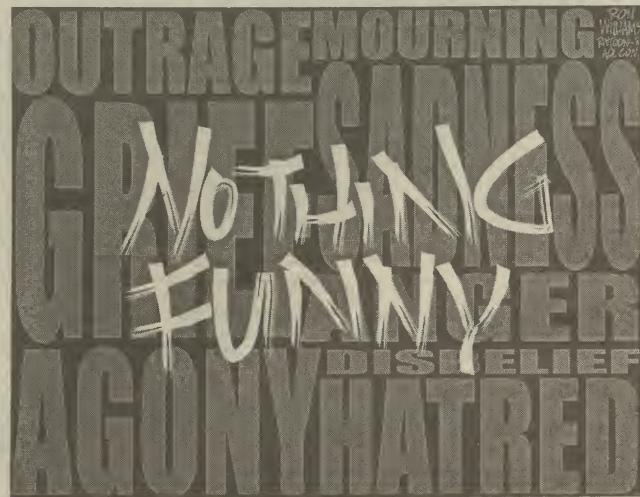
Arab and Muslim groups have reported receiving threatening phone calls, and callers to TV shows have made disparaging, offensive racist remarks. Al-Fatih, an LGBT Muslim group, issued a statement Tuesday

condemning the terrorist attacks while at the same time appealing for tolerance. "In condemning the attacks, Al-Fatih asks that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community not to be quick to stereotype Arabs or Muslims," said the group's statement. Faisal Al-Alam, with Al-Fatih, warns that "We must not allow our fears and anger to overcome us."

Closer to home, we received an e-mail from the Palestinian owners of a business in the Castro. Though they did not give their names, the owners were horrified by the attacks. They pointed out,

however, that they are Americans and love their country just like everyone and will not stand for attempts to destroy American property and lives. "We stand ready to assist you in any way we can to get through this difficult period," they wrote. "Our prayers go out to the victims and the families of these terrible tragedies."

In the aftermath of this terrible, world-changing event, the country must put aside political and other differences in order to persevere. In times of tragedy, Americans have shown that they can come together. Now is one of those times. ▼



Faith of our fathers

by Julius Turman

Whenever a black, gay man discusses how he came out to his family with another person of color, the first question is almost always, "How did your mother take it?" The implications of the question are various and often automatic: your mother's opinion is the one that counts; there is no father in your life; and strongest of all, your father disapproves. As black men, we often live the experience of black fathers being the silent or absent partners, leaving the firm management of the family to the mothers. This is the prevailing belief of all — black or white. But today, I'd like you to meet my father. Though the beginning of our relationship was as much of the hands-off mold as many black fathers, my father has emerged as my strongest advocate, my model of faith, and my best of friends. His way offers a unique lesson in sustenance for the future fight.

Black American culture, like any other, is steeped in customs, roles, mores, and even stigma. From my own experience in the world of my forefathers, I have seen that homosexuality intones a special dishonor because of its perceived undermining of manhood. A black man, unlike his white counterpart, is not automatically afforded the title of "man." Indeed, his manliness must be fought for, won, and constantly protected from what seems an endless barrage of attack. Every man learns early what society expects and measures his manliness based on success with his family, job, intellect, and societal contribution. For black men, this measure is often: family-abandoned; jobless; intellect-nonexistent; societal contribution-incarceration. From an early age, black men often proclaim, "I'm a man." They then set out to overcome contrary expectations — meaning manhood becomes paramount. However, with so much stacked against, some failure is inevitable, and some belief at failing to be a man takes hold.

What relationship does this bear to homosexuality? As a cousin once said to me, "Because we're black they expect us to fail at

being men. Why would you be gay, abdicating your manhood, before the real fight even begins?" Thus, homosexuality is so repugnant to black men because it is an automatic disqualifier, even before one begins the work of defeating the world's expectation. My father was quietly raised in the same vein, believing gay men choose to be "soft" and welcoming womanhood, rather than the fight. My father also adopted his father's behavior of being an emotional stranger to his children — probably just because that's the way it was. Only distance has given my father and myself the perspective to take stock of the other. My father no longer sees gay men, or at least me, as less of a man. Rather, he now measures manhood by seeing a son refuse to hide when called "faggot," just like he never ran away when he was called "nigger." My father, and other black men of his age, have only just begun to draw and be comfortable with the parallels. It becomes easier to see, when hate mobs protest at solemn funerals of young, gay men or they hear the U.S. military using the same arguments for excluding gays as they professed to exclude black men from active service. I know that not only my father, but my whole family understands the similarities when they point out "We weren't always welcomed in the Southern Baptist Church either, that's why most blacks are Missionary Baptists." With these examples, my father began to develop understanding, which is of course, the foundation of support.

I realize that my father's support of me reaches far back, even before he realized it. When at 16 years old, I came home from school, upset and angry at being teased about my weight, effeminate manner, and academic interests — in short a "fat, sissy, bookworm" — I didn't dare to tell my father, who in my eyes, could bear any pain without a wince, why I was troubled. I feared it would reveal and hurt too much of me and in turn, hurt too much of him. I only told him that it had been a very bad day in school. He looked me in the eyes and said

with simplistic wisdom, "It'll get better. It always does. It has to."

Years later, after coming out to my father, I turned to him again, after a very bad day. I don't know why I chose him. It was never my intention to tell him that I was having a serious problem with my boyfriend. Again, I feared it would reveal and hurt too much of me and in turn, hurt too much of him. This time my dad said to me, "Troubles in your love life?" It was probably all he could muster and as far as he could go. He looked me in the eyes and said again with simplistic wisdom, "It'll get better. It always does. It has to."

This time, he reached over and lightly touched my hand.

I realize that to many, this is not the kind of ringing endorsement one expects and maybe needs from one's parent. But to me and many black men like me, it is an earth-shattering breakthrough. Whenever I visit my parents' home, my father shows off his son. He displays the total package: lawyer, businessman, writer, gay.

As I look back over my father's life and mine, I know that he has passed on his simple philosophy to me: "It'll get better. It always does. It has to." This is my father's faith. This faith has carried him through the great campaigns of his own life — childhood in Alabama and the civil rights movement and the automobile factories in Michigan and his UAW involvement. I am almost ashamed at my cumbersome attempt to explain the eloquent beauty of my father, how he has kept faith through his crusades and given me a framework for hope in mine. I am proud that I am my father's son. I am proud that he has transferred his faith to me and as a gay, black man I contribute his special brand of strength, determination, and faith to the modern day gay rights movement. So tell the gay marriage advocates, the Cody Republicans, the gays aspiring to be adoptive parents in Florida, and black men — who now only begin to see close ties to distant fathers — "It'll get better. It always does. It has to." ▼

Guest Opinion



We're not all urban

by Paula Martinac

Unlike Ellen DeGeneres's groundbreaking first television show, which was set in Los Angeles, her new fall sitcom, *The Ellen Show*, will take place in the small town of Clark in an unnamed state. This small-town setting may surprise a lot of straight people, who still think most lesbians and gay men live in either Sodom or Gomorrah. Will the mainstream viewing audience be able to accept the notion that gay people do indeed live, work, and mow the lawn in towns like Mayberry from the old Andy Griffith show?

The fact that there are large numbers of small-town residents in lesbian and gay America is not news to most of us. The slogan "all politics is local" applies more and more to our movement. Lesbian and gay activists from outside of major metropolises have performed some of the most vital and interesting political work, like successfully fighting for local anti-discrimination ordinances.

But mainstream America hasn't completely caught on to our geographic reality, perhaps because most images of gay people remain urban. Much of the gay literature that has successfully crossed over to heterosexual audiences, for example, is by writers like Michael Cunningham, David Leavitt, and Edmund White, who tend to set their creative work in major American and European cities.

Perhaps the best example of the urban gay stereotype is *Will and Grace*, which revels in the tired yet familiar figure of the witty, handsome, trim, cultured, white gay Manhattanite with scads of disposable income, a fabulous apartment, and no permanent relationship — except, of course, with his attractive and faithful fag hag.

Of course, I'm not forgetting John Goodman's sitcom, *Normal Ohio*, from last season, about a gay man who returns to his small town after years in San Francisco. But because Goodman's show wasn't funny and because it was hard to tune in and not see him as Dan Conner from *Roseanne*, we'll never know whether another reason the show failed so quickly was because the concept of a gay boy



next door" just didn't fly with viewers.

Similar to Goodman's short-lived show, DeGeneres's comedy will focus on a lesbian who moves away from the hubbub of Los Angeles back to Hometown, U.S.A. But this time around, if the show can survive its terrible Friday-night time slot, I'm hoping the lesbian "girl next door" is viable for straight viewers, in part because of all the recent mainstream media coverage of the 2000 U.S. census results.

The census counts have been trickling in from the 50 states over the past several months, with the last remaining states finally reporting their figures a few weeks ago. State by state, as the mainstream press picked up the story, heterosexual America was forced to come to terms with the fact that partnered lesbians and gay men reside in 99.3 percent of all the counties in America and feel confident enough to acknowledge their same-sex relationships on a census form.

In fact, there was so much mainstream press coverage of the swelling numbers of gay couples in America that the news stories became monotonous reading after a while. Most focused on same-sex couples who had fled major metropolises in search of a better quality of life. "Jill Smith and Jane Jones moved to Whoville 10 years ago," these articles almost invariably started out, "because they were looking for an affordable home with a yard." Jill always wanted to garden, Jane said, "and you just can't grow good tomatoes in the Castro."

But there are also a lot of lesbians and gay men who were born in or around Whoville and never left. Maybe they didn't want to leave, or maybe family obligations or economic considerations made them stay. Maybe some of them left and then returned, like DeGeneres's sitcom character or like the lesbian veterinarian I met recently in New Hampshire, who went to school in Boston and couldn't wait to move back home to her predominantly rural state.

It often takes more courage to be openly gay in a small town than it does in a major urban center — an important point for straight America to realize. In her new memoir, *You're Not from Around Here, Are You? A Lesbian in Small-Town America*, Louise Blum writes about moving to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, for a college teaching job. There she met her lover, Connie, who was from the area. When they decided to have a baby together, they had trouble even finding a doctor who would inseminate a "single" woman. Why didn't they move to a city? They liked their jobs, and Connie's family lived with a 15-mile radius. So they stayed and eventually built their family, but all the while confronting appalling homophobia and galling heterosexism.

I guess we shouldn't expect lessons about small-town prejudice from DeGeneres, who says her sitcom won't deal with gay politics. But I'm hopeful just the same that the show will, even inadvertently, help dispel the gay urban stereotype. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNCcolumn@aol.com.

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POLITICS

Bush facing crossroads with shrinking budget

by Wayne Friday

Much like his father's now famous "read my lips, no new taxes" promise made during his campaign for president in 1988, **George W. Bush** finds himself facing a budget crossroads that could make the former Texas governor, like his father, a one-term president.

In 1990, facing a budget battle with Congress, then-President **George H.W. Bush** reneged on his signature campaign pledge, raised taxes, and promptly went down to defeat for re-election in 1992. Could history be repeating itself with Dubya? George Junior promised time and again during last year's campaign that he would never use "one red cent" of the surplus Social Security money, safely put it away in a "lock box." And now that his own Congressional Budget Office director is suggesting that it will, indeed, be necessary to tap the Social Security fund, the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate (including many GOP members) is waiting to see if Dubya will eventually break his oft-repeated promise, and for the consequences of his decision.

Bush and his Republican allies are, of course, claiming that the current budget shortage is caused by the "unexpected" weakness of the economy, but Democrats, still bitter over the way Bush became president, are telling Americans that the shortage in the national budget, one that will likely result in Bush vetoing spending projects like education and Medicare, was in fact caused in large measure by the tax cut that Bush pushed through Congress earlier this year. Even Bush's own economists are privately telling the White House there is no way for Bush and Congress to keep the spending low enough to avoid tapping into the Social Security trust fund, probably to the tune of anywhere between the \$10 to \$20 billion range.

Clearly, as Bush and his White House financial gurus prepare for a showdown in Congress, particularly the Senate, we can expect Bush to either cut domestic spending across the board or watch the administration tap into the Social Security surplus, since the government is now on track to be forced to "borrow" at least \$10 billion to meet its stated obligations. When Senator **Pete Domenici** (R-New Mexico), long considered an expert on budget matters, suggested last week that it "makes sense" to tap the Social Security surplus to fund public policy priorities, it was a sure signal that Bush and his economic advisers are now in deep trouble.

Democrats, to be sure, are gleefully preparing the 2002 congressional campaign ads accusing Bush of going back on his number one campaign promise, if, as some think, he is forced to touch the Social Security surplus. Will G.W. actually make a mistake similar to the one that cost his father a second term? I doubt it, because the country is already reading Dubya's lips as his situation echoes that of his old man in 1990 with his tax problems. Instead, this adminis-

tration (read: Karl Rove) with no heart, will cut spending on social programs before it is caught making the mistake that the first President Bush did. Where is **Bill Clinton** when this country needs him?

Meanwhile, it was reported that a group of checkbook Republicans met quietly at a White House dinner recently with Bush and Vice President **Dick Cheney** and reportedly told Junior to his face that he must become more forceful, appear at least to be more "in control," and talk about economic issues differently in an attempt to spur the economy that has gone south since he became president. The group, according to a story in the *New York Times*, cited polls showing that Bush was not as decisive and not as "presidential" as he should be, and that, indeed, he appears to be "too scripted" and still lacks projecting the image of a commanding leader. As the

Times put it, "from the size of the index cards he reads from to the size of the lecterns he stands behind, Bush handlers are trying to give him at least the appearance of being a commanding person" and less tentative and over-scripted.

Hey, let's face it, the guy has been in office less than 10 months, the economy is tanking, unemployment is soaring again, and Republicans running for re-election next year are said to be "worried sick."

What the hell, at least Californians voted for the guy who really won the election. Speaking of which, with its growing population of minorities, this state looks even more like a solidly Democratic state. Even California GOP leaders are complaining that Bush now seems to have turned his back on the state. Bush has visited California only once since taking office and one top state Republican was quoted this week as saying "The only Cabinet member we ever see out here is [former Californian] **Ann Veneman**," the secretary of agriculture.

Politics and people

There weren't a lot of significant changes in the redistricting of House and legislative districts in California — both parties pretty much worked together to protect the status quo — but East Bay Democratic Representative **Ellen Tauscher** is said to be still pouting over the newly-drawn lines in her 10th District (it got extended into the Valley to pick up Democrats in Solano and Yolo counties) but no one is paying Tauscher much attention. Not particularly popular with her California House colleagues, it should be pointed out that from what I hear, Tauscher's support of Representative **Steny Hoyer** (D-Maryland) over our very own Representative **Nancy Pelosi** for House Democratic whip has less to do with Pelosi's politics and more to do with a personal relationship. Tauscher reportedly has with the Maryland congressman (who says all politics is local).

The national wire services carried an interesting story this week about a former Florida state representative, **Elaine Bloom** (D-Miami) who says she now regrets



Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher



Our Man Friday

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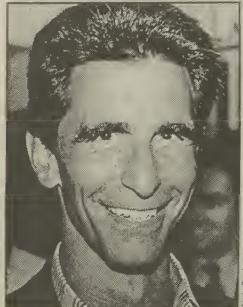
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Supervisor Mark Leno

Bush in the general election. However, don't underestimate Reno. Who can forget her last day in office in January, when she headed straight for New York City for a surprise appearance on *Saturday Night Live*? Bursting out of a fake wall onto a set where the tall fellow who had long impersonated her was holding forth, she shout-

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How did Provincetown become a gay resort?

by Andrew Collins

Known affectionately at "P-town" by thousands of lesbian and gay summer regulars, Provincetown, Massachusetts is the quintessential gay resort. Although founded by Puritans and soon after dominated by a mix of ruffians and rebels, this picturesque seaside village earned its greatest fame a century ago for its burgeoning art and theater scene. Creative spirits soon descended regularly on the town — among them the original pioneers of Provincetown's now vibrant gay community.

Ironically, Provincetown was the original destination of the righteous and prim *Mayflower* Pilgrims in 1620. They found the terrain inhospitable and moved quickly on to Plymouth. Provincetown — or "Helltown" as it was sometimes called — degenerated rapidly into a boisterous enclave of mostly Portuguese fishermen, transient indigenous Wampanoags, and assorted rum-runners, wreckers, fortune-seekers, political dissidents, and gamblers. One report from early colonial times describes Provincetown as a scene of "bacchanalian carousals, which were continued sometimes for weeks with unrestrained license" — events that sound remarkably familiar these days.

While there's no recorded evidence of homosexual activity in Provincetown before the 20th century, the anything-goes ethic of the prior three centuries encouraged a following among visitors with nontraditional beliefs and orientations. Furthermore, the remote location at the tip of Cape Cod — out of view of "respectable" society — made it easier for persons who disdained conventional mores to live openly. Finally, the town's breathtakingly scenic location provided ample inspiration for writers, painters, and other artsy types.

Around 1900 the iconoclastic painter Charles W. Hawthorne, one of the earliest American proponents of *plein air* impressionist painting, established the Cape Cod School of Art in Provincetown. Hawthorne's endeavor spurred the genesis of America's most important early artists colony; the Provincetown Art Association claimed more than 100 members within its first decade.

In 1915, the Provincetown Players theater group formed, staging dramatic productions all summer and then spending its off-seasons amid the nascent gay scene of New York City's Greenwich Village. These early dramatists aimed to turn the stuffy American theater scene on its ear

— emphasizing powerful and provocative themes. In 1922 the Provincetown Playhouse staged *The God of Vengeance*, by Sholem Asch, the first dramatic work presented on a professional American stage to depict gay characters — in this case a lesbian relationship.

Among the notable writers and playwrights who made up Provincetown's early arts scene were Eugene O'Neill, Sinclair Lewis, and the openly bisexual poet and writer Edna St. Vincent Millay. Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, Edward Hopper, and the openly gay artists Marsden Hartley and Charles Demuth rank among the most notable painters. By the 1950s, major gay performers and writers began summering in Provincetown. That decade playwright Tennessee Williams penned significant parts of *The Glass Menagerie* while renting a cottage there. Novelist Truman Capote soon took to long visits. And the (closed) gay Hollywood matinee idol Montgomery Clift visited with his friends on at least two occasions.

Also in the 1950s, the Atlantic House — still Provincetown's most famous gay bar — became a favorite watering hole of Capote and Williams (photo of the latter, now hangs in the Atlantic House



Past Out



Andrew Collins

Provincetown — with its wind-swept beaches, exceptional arts scene, and tremendous variety of guesthouses and nightclubs — is America's most vibrant gay resort.

bar). The management soon began courting the lavender set, even holding weekly gay-themed parties in its dance hall. As bohemianism became increasingly associated with America's gay rights movement, Provincetown developed growing prominence as a gathering spot among like-minded gay men and lesbians.

The same free-love spirit and non-judgmental ideals of the 1960s that helped ultimately to galvanize the gay communities in numerous American cities also altered the face of Provincetown. Taking advantage of a cheap real estate, hippies and feminists arrived throughout the decade, and in the 1970s gay-owned inns, boutiques, leather shops, and bars began opening at break-neck speed. In 1978 the gay Provincetown Business Guild organized with the specific goal of turning the town into America's most popular gay summer resort.

Provincetown has a more pronounced lesbian scene than most other gay destinations, including rivals Key West and Palm Springs. Several factors likely contribute to this balance, including the proximity of major feminist and lesbian communities in Boston, Providence, and New York City, as well several women's colleges, notably Smith, Mt. Holyoke, and Wellesley. Also, during the 1980s and early 1990s, when the AIDS epidemic hit Provincetown's tiny but significantly gay year-round population with brutal force, an increasing number of lesbians moved into town. As a group, these women helped fortify the community economically and socially and in quite a few cases

nursed and cared for their ailing male friends.

Provincetown continues to be an incubator of creative and alternative spirits — a favorite retreat of countless gay artists, including director John Waters, novelists Michael Cunningham and Mark Doty, and performers Kate Clinton and Melissa Etheridge. Indeed, the efforts of many locals to turn Provincetown into one of the world's most recognizable gay resorts has succeeded beyond anybody's wildest expectations. ▼

Guest columnist Andrew Collins authored the recently updated and expanded *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA* and six regional gay guides for Fodor's. He can be reached care of this publication or at GayFodors@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Brahma Jeanne, Peterson P. Pamela, 1998. *Starry, Starry Night: Provincetown's Response to the AIDS Epidemic*. Cambridge, MA: Brookline Books.

Vorse, Mary Heaton, 1991. *Time and the Town: A Provincetown Chronicle*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

The Works Progress Administration, 1937. *Cape Cod Pilot*. New York: Viking Press (out of print but widely available from second-hand bookshops and Web sites).

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PHOTO BY JEFFREY SIEGEL

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

ed, "It's Reno time."

Got a look at the glossy new magazine, 7x7, which carried an interview with District Attorney Terence Hallinan I found interesting (hey, with Kayo it's at least always interesting) in which he says, "I feel I would be a perfect mayor for San Francisco." Go for it Kayo — join the fray with Gavin Newsom, Angela Alioto, Tom Ammiano, Barbara Kaufman, John Burton, etc. Meanwhile, I caught Hallinan later in the week on TV with Bruce Pettit discussing his relationship with Mayor Willie Brown. Hallinan: "I wouldn't call us bosom buddies, but we are civil and we have to work together." Ah yes, Terence, like him or loath him, the guy is interesting, but mayor? Well, why not, the homeless and the Oakland drug dealers working the Tenderloin would love the guy. In other media news, Hallinan apparently isn't too upset by Brown's calling him a SOB in a recent interview with the San Francisco Neighborhood Association. I doubt that Willie Brown will be

endorsing Kayo's run for mayor. Deputy City Attorney Kamala Harris and former Assistant D.A. Bill Fazio were spotted having lunch together Friday at noon at Bryant Street's Cafe Roma; both are reportedly interested in a run for Terence Hallinan's job next time around ... interesting.

California's Placer County recently became the state's most heavily-registered Republican county with 49.77 percent, beating out Orange County; Alameda is now the state's most Democratic county (56.64 percent) with San Francisco the second most Democratic (56.28 percent).

His staff refutes it, but reliable sources have it that California Representative Gary Condit (D-18th District) has already told Demo House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-Missouri) and other top Democrats that he definitely will not seek re-election next year, but will serve out the remainder of his current term.

Of major interest to the state's legal community is word that David Shapiro has been named interim U.S. attorney, replacing Robert Mueller, who was sworn in last week as FBI director.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Stolen bicycle recovered

by Jane Warner

Market and 14th streets, September 3, 6:30 p.m.: After reporting a bicycle stolen about a month ago, a man was walking on Market Street near 14th when he saw a stranger standing on the corner holding his missing bike. The man knew it was his bike by the unique green, white, and orange coloring. A confrontation occurred as the man grabbed the bike out of the stranger's hands. The stranger head-butted him, causing a gash in his forehead. The blow knocked him to the ground. The suspect rode off with the bike westbound

on Market Street leaving the victim bleeding in the street.

Responding officers spotted the suspect riding down the stairs of the Muni underground and arrested him as he tried to board the train. The arrested suspect told officers that the bicycle belonged to his girlfriend and he was just defending himself, thinking the man was trying to steal it from him.

Officers did a background check and found an outstanding warrant for the suspect's arrest. The 36-year-old man was taken to

Mission Station, where he was booked for possession of stolen property, delaying arrest, aggravated assault, and the outstanding warrant.

Battery

200 block of Dolores Street, September 8, 9:10 p.m.: A man pulled into a residential driveway to use his cell phone. A few minutes later a stranger riding a bicycle banged on his windshield and demanded he move from the driveway. The man indicated he would, but indicated he was on

the phone. Angry, the stranger hit the side of the car with his fist and demanded that the man leave immediately. The driver got out and saw that the stranger had positioned his bicycle behind his car, blocking his path. A shoving match ensued and the driver of the car was pushed to the ground.

The suspect, described as a white male, 35-40 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall, 170 pounds with red hair, wearing a black shirt and blue shorts, rode away eastbound on Dolores. Responding police were unable to find him. The driver of the car reported no serious injuries.

Reported incident at bar

Badlands bar, 4121 18th Street, 12:05 a.m.: A man called police to report that he had been assaulted by a woman inside the Badlands bar. When police arrived, they found the man standing near the pay phone across the street, bleeding from a slight cut above his eye. The man told officers that he was inside the bar when an Hispanic

woman approached him for no apparent reason and allegedly struck him in the face. The man told officers that they were both escorted out by the doorman and told not to come back. The man could not give any more details and was unsure what the woman looked like, other than to say that she had long brown hair.

Suspecting something might be wrong, the officers went across the street and interviewed bar staff. The doorman told officers that the man was never involved with any altercation inside the bar and was not escorted out of the bar. The officers searched the area for the woman with negative results. The man, who still claimed his recollection of events was correct, was given a case number and a battery report was filed. ▼



Ezerski 'sure' he'll be proven innocent in Florida murder case

by Ed Walsh

Florida murder suspect Adam Ezerski says he's confident that he'll be vindicated of all criminal charges against him.

"I'm sure I'll be proved innocent," Ezerski told the Bay Area Reporter in a second exclusive telephone interview last Friday, September 7, from Broward County jail in Fort Lauderdale.

Florida investigators say Ezerski confessed to killing 39-year-old Anthony Martilotto in a Fort Lauderdale hotel room on July 26. Ezerski told police and the B.A.R. that he acted in self-defense. He said Martilotto tried to rape him and he feared for his life. Investigators say Martilotto had been strangled.

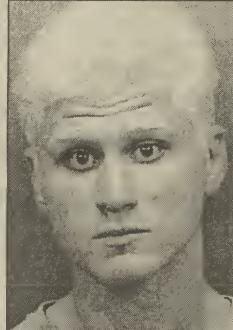
Ezerski, 19, told the B.A.R. that he's "not worried" about any charges in connection with his alleged August 14 attack on San Francisco resident Kevin Begoon. Begoon said Ezerski hit him over the head with a 20-pound sculpture before trying to strangle him. Begoon said that while he initially was reluctant to report the attack he did so out of concern that Ezerski would harm someone else.

Ezerski called Begoon a "drama queen" and claimed his version of the attack was a lie. Ezerski said Begoon was injured in a mutual fight and that Begoon threw the sculpture at him and not the other way around.

In interviews since the alleged attack, Begoon has stood by his story.

San Francisco Police Inspector Dominic Celaya told the B.A.R. that he is waiting for transcripts of Ezerski's interviews with Florida police before he'll be ready to proceed with the San Francisco investigation against Ezerski. Celaya said once he gets those transcripts he'll compare Ezerski's version of events with the physical evidence.

A grand jury in Florida could decide later this week whether to charge Ezerski with first-degree murder. The Broward County prosecutor assigned to the case, Tony Lowe, told the B.A.R. that the panel is scheduled to begin hearing the case on Thursday, September 13. Lowe said that un-



Murder suspect Adam Ezerski

like California, under Florida law only a grand jury can charge someone with first-degree murder. Lowe said that until he knows more about the case, he couldn't comment on whether it could be a potential death-penalty case.

Ezerski will be defended by an openly gay official with the Broward County Public Defender's office. Chief Assistant Public Defender Robert Wills told the B.A.R. he is just beginning to do the research that will be necessary to defend Ezerski. Wills said he will likely travel to San Francisco to interview potential witnesses here.

Fort Lauderdale Police Detective Mike Reed declined extensive comment on the case but when asked what he thought of Ezerski's claim of self-defense in the Martilotto killing, he said: "That's his claim but we do have evidence. On the face of it, self-defense is a hard thing to buy when you run across country. We have a lot of evidence that we will present at trial."

Meanwhile the San Francisco parolee who befriended Ezerski and later helped him run away to Reno is in trouble with the state parole board over his role in the case. Board of Prison Terms spokeswoman, Denise Schmidt, told the B.A.R. that Troy Young is being charged with harboring a fugitive, drug possession, and traveling outside his parole area. She said a parole revocation hearing will be scheduled for him.

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Vermont governor may eye presidential bid

United Press International

Vermont Governor Howard Dean, the longest-serving Democratic governor in the nation, sparked speculation last Thursday, September 6 that he might run for president in 2004 with his announcement he won't seek re-election next year.

Dean, 52, a centrist known for his fiscal conservatism and social liberalism, surprised many in the state by his announcement last Wednesday in front of the Statehouse in Montpelier that he will not seek a sixth term and deflected questions as to his plans.

"I don't know yet," Dean responded when asked about a possible run for president in 2004. "I need to assess that. That's a whole different process that starts today."

Dean had said previously he would make no announcement about his future until at least January. "I have accomplished many things that I wanted to accomplish in this job," he said. "I have been in this job for 10 years. By the time I leave this job I will have been in state service for 20 years. I came into the Legislature on January 1 of 1983. I will leave this building



joyed by heterosexual couples. The issue was the most divisive during Dean's tenure. He narrowly won re-election last year, surviving a challenge from a Republican strongly opposed to the civil unions law.

In an editorial last Thursday, the *Boston Globe* said Dean's decision to end his term as governor "may be the first step in a try for the presidency...." The *Globe* noted that Dean "would undertake such a candidacy with an excellent record but little national recognition," adding that the timing of the announcement gives Dean "the extra time to make himself better known."

The former physician-turned-politician cited his accomplishments since, as lieutenant governor, he became governor in August 1991 upon the death of Governor Richard Snelling. Among his proudest achievements were guaranteeing health care for Vermont's children and conserving hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland and forest land. Dean dismissed any suggestion he was stepping down because his popular support had eroded. In last year's election, Dean received the lowest percentage of the popular vote than in any previous race. ▼

Vermont Governor Howard Dean

in January of 2003."

Although he has little name recognition outside of New England, Dean did attract some national attention when he served as chairman of the National Governors Association, and previously explored the possibility of running for U.S. president.

He also generated public notice — both pro and con — when he signed Vermont's civil unions law last year, a law that gave same-sex couples rights similar to those en-

Positive Resource names new board president

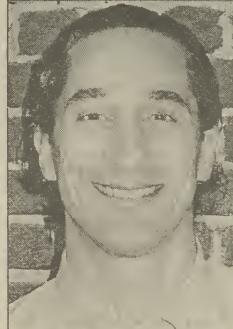
by Matthew S. Bajko

With three years service on Positive Resource Center's board of directors, Mark Murphy is ready to take the helm of the nonprofit organization. The board announced last week it had elected Murphy to serve as president.

"My efforts will be directly geared to interfacing with other leaders in San Francisco. I want to reach out to a broader array of spectrum of people to ensure that the services that PRC has to offer are available to everyone," said Murphy.

Positive Resource Center provides benefit counseling and employment services to more than 2,500 people living with HIV/AIDS each year. Rich Samano, PRC's board president since March 2000, recently passed away due to illness.

"Our former board president very quickly became ill and passed away. It happened so suddenly, but the honor [of being elected president] is no less valued. It is just another tragic reminder that our friends continue to pass



PRC's Mark Murphy

away," said Murphy. "My personal challenge is to ensure that all San Franciscans know how to find us who need either to unravel the web of complexity surrounding private and public benefits or to take advantage of Positive Resource Center's employment preparation and placement services."

Murphy will also continue in the position of treasurer, which he has served since March 1999.

Prior to joining PRC, Murphy volunteered as a tutor with the Back on Track program at Third Baptist Church.

"Today, we face the reality that AIDS is not going away. HIV infection rates are rising, but thankfully our lovers, friends, family members, and others living with HIV and AIDS are living longer lives," said Murphy. "I am proud of the role PRC plays in helping people live longer and better lives because of its services. I am particularly proud that 90 percent of agency funds go to support direct client services."

PRC's benefits counseling staff maintained over a 90 percent success rate in helping clients secure disability and insurance benefits during the past year, and its employment services staff helped clients secure 601 job placements, 127 of which were long-term placements.

The organization will hold its fourth annual gala fundraiser, "Meet Me in Rio," on October 4. The event will feature Armistead Maupin and Jan Wahl, KRON-TV movie critic. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (415) 777-0333. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

Shapiro is also a candidate for the presidential appointment as Mueller's long-term replacement. A screening committee of three Republican lawyers, led by former U.S. Attorney Joseph Ruessell, is expected to soon name a candidate.

In Washington, Capitol Hill

buzz has Secretary of State Colin Powell, once the GOP "star" of the Bush administration, slowly but surely losing out in a foreign policy power battle against the more conservative team of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Finally, we have this: "Doonesbury" creator Garry Trudeau has apologized — sort of — for a recent Sunday strip that cited what has

turned out to be an Internet hoax that said George W. Bush had the lowest IQ of any president in the past 50 years. (What? You mean it isn't actually true?) "Trudeau takes full responsibility, acknowledging the use of fictional material from an outside source instead of simply making it up as he usually does," the "Doonesbury" Web site says. "The creator deeply apologizes."

And how was your week? ▼

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Gay docs make D.C. announcements

by Bob Roehr

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association announced four things at a September 10 news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. It released a survey on vaccinations for hepatitis A and B, announced new editors for its journal, celebrated the opening of its Washington office, and promoted its 20th anniversary conference at the end of September in New Orleans.

Hepatitis A and B are "the only STDs [sexually transmitted diseases] for which there is prevention," explained Dr. William S. Gilmer, president of the organization. In 1998 GLMA joined with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in recommending universal hepatitis A and B vaccination for men who have sex with men. "We've been pushing and pushing," he said, "and we are making progress."

GLMA members conducted the survey at gay Pride events in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles,

and Chicago. It marks the third year in a row that the gay docs have polled the community and it shows some interesting trends.

They found that the rate of vaccination for hepatitis A has increased from 38 to 45 percent over that time, while vaccination for hepatitis B rose from 35 to 46 percent. About 90 percent of those polled said they were aware of vaccines for those viruses. [See story on hepatitis on page 21.]

Judith Bradford, Ph.D. and Dr. Vincent M.B. Silenzio, will become editors of the *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*. Bradford said, "It is the only peer reviewed journal in the world dealing with LGBT health issues." The five-year-old publication will undergo a name change and face-lift with the March issue, though Bradford is keeping those plans under wraps.

"LGBT health crosses domains that don't often enough come together — social issues, public health, and medical care," she said. This pushes multidisciplinary boundaries of research and care.

"We've had remarkable accomplishments in the last five years in LGBT health," Bradford said. "It has gotten to the point where we are now recognized as groups of people who face particular needs because of disease and sexual orientation."

She hopes that Healthy People 2010, the federal government's planning document for health care, will lead to a better understanding of the health needs of gays and lesbians and a better understanding of "our unique needs."

The group has been a major proponent of lesbian health issues and played a key role in stimulat-

ing the Institute of Medicine report on that subject. Generally such reports quickly lead to research funding by the NIH in the area studied. But that has not quite been the case with lesbian health. As Bradford tactfully put it, "It has not been everything we had hoped for." Still, she pointed to a recent "broad call for research proposals" issued by the NIH and the government agency dealing with substance abuse.

Martin Rouse opened GLMA's Washington office. He was an assistant to former Secretary of Health and Human Services

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Dr. William S. Gilmer

Bob Roehr

A, B, Cs of hepatitis

by Bob Roehr

Hepatitis is the general name for inflammation of the liver that can be caused by a

number of different things ranging from drug toxicity to viruses that carry the letters from A through G. But the big three are hepatitis A, B, and C.

Hepatitis C is the silent one,

primarily spread through blood transfusion prior to 1992, the shared needles of injection drug use, and improperly sterilized tattooing and piercing equipment. Most people will never know they carry the virus but about 20 percent will develop physical problems in 20-40 years. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

Hepatitis A and B can be transmitted a number of ways, including through sex. Hepatitis A spreads through fecal matter. Practices such as "rimming" can be an especially easy path of infection. Handling sex toys and even condoms after they have been used in anal sex are other possible routes of transmission. Food and water contaminated with minute amounts of hepatitis A can be found at some of the most popular foreign tourist destinations were water and sanitary conditions may be less than in the U.S.

Hepatitis B is spread through contact with infected blood and other body fluids. The amount needed is so small that you may not even see it. That is why improperly sterilized tattooing and piercing equipment, shared razors, and even toothbrushes are demonstrated routes of transmission.

Both infections show up a few weeks to a few months after exposure. The range of symptoms most often include the aches, pains, chills, and bone-tired fatigue of a very bad flu that can lay you low for days, weeks, even months. Some see the whites of their eyes and skin turn yellow with jaundice as the malfunctioning liver backs up bile levels in the blood.

Most people with either disease probably will feel well enough to go back to work in a few weeks, though it likely will take a few months to get back up to full speed. However, about 10 percent of those with hepatitis B will develop long-term chronic liver problems, and some will die from it. Playwright and activist Larry Kramer's problems with hepatitis B are so severe that he is on a waiting list for a liver transplant. Most folks die before they get it.

For people co-infected with HIV and hepatitis C, adding hepatitis A to the mix can quickly turn deadly. A study in Italy showed that about a third of the people hit with that combination developed fulminant liver disease and rapidly progressed to death. That is why public health guidelines strongly urge all people with HIV to be screened for hepatitis A, B, and C. Those without antibody from pre-

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Castro area businesses seek permits

by Matthew S. Bajko

If their proposals win approval from the San Francisco Planning Commission, a bank plans to open its doors on Castro Street and two upper Market Street restaurants want to add outdoor seating to their establishments.

Wells Fargo has requested a conditional use permit to open a branch at 557 Castro Street, the site of the long closed Headlines clothing store. The bank plans to open what officials say will be "a traditional store" at the location. It would be 4,000 square feet and employ 12 people. The company already maintains ATM machines on Market and a location inside the Safeway store.

The branch would provide teller lines and safety deposit boxes for Castro customers. Bank officials will go before the Planning Commission October 4, and the company does not expect any problems with its application.

"We need a change of use grant since the site was retail, then we must go into permitting to do construction," said Wells Fargo spokesperson Ravi Poorsina. "So, if all goes through as planned, we expect to start construction in late October and are hoping for an opening around February."

Down on Market Street at the corner of Church and 14th streets, the owners of John Frank Restaurant are in the process of getting approval to add outdoor seating in their parking lot.

And Harry Lamanna, owner of Cafe Focus at 2041 Market Street, between Mecca and Eros, would also like to have outdoor seating at his two-year-old cafe. He is working with an architect and permit planner to draw up plans to use 300 feet of an outdoor patio for seating.

While he has the support of area merchants, several condominium residents next door have threatened to fight his application for a conditional use permit.

He has posted a petition inside his cafe to gather support before going to the planning department with his plans.

"I am in the process of getting the conditional use permit, and all the support and help I can get from the community would be greatly appreciated," said Lamanna,

who was part owner of Video Control for eight years.

All three businesses have garnered support from the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. MUMC President Patrick Batt said all three proposals would be beneficial to the business climate of the area.

"Headlines has been vacant for quite a while, and Wells Fargo doesn't have a presence in this neighborhood. Cafe Focus simply wanted our support for use of their backyard. It will have minimal impact on other businesses," said Batt. "John Frank has gone a long way toward cleaning up that corner of Market, 14th and Church. And they promised to have their valet not use any on-street parking spaces." ▼



The former Headlines store is expected to become a Wells Fargo branch.

Pottery Barn

◀ page 1

ings."

Due to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. on Tuesday, Pottery Barn officials announced late Wednesday that they were indefinitely postponing a planned pre-party fundraiser Friday evening. The company has set up a hotline number at (415) 616-7828 to alert the community of the change.

"Merchants seem to be welcoming of the new store. The pre-party guest list is at capacity. Batt said he hasn't seen any great opposition to the store's opening.

"I think there is some general

support since that space had been vacant for so long. They will be a good fit," Batt said.

However, the reaction to the company's announcement it was moving into the neighborhood back in 1999 sparked protests within the community. Neighborhood activists successfully petitioned the city's Planning Commission to scale back the project and redesign the store.

"Gentrification started long before Pottery Barn got there. But the announcement of their coming was the last straw for a lot of people," said Avicoli Mecca.

He said he fears the opening of the store will lead to further gentrification of the neighborhood, with wealthy, straight families

moving in and evicting lower-to-moderate-income gay and lesbian residents.

"The Castro has become a place where a lot of straight people feel comfortable living and raising families there," he said. "That was not true 20 years ago."

Pottery Barn officials counter such criticism by the fact that they do not cater only to a straight clientele but to gays and lesbians as well.

"[The gay community] is a really very important part of our customer base. Gay men and gay women have great taste and love to decorate their homes," said Alber. "We have a wide variety of customers but that is an important part of our customer base."

Adding that Pottery Barn employs a large number of gays and lesbians at its headquarters in downtown San Francisco, Alber said the company has taken particular pains to make its coming to the Castro a positive event.

"It is something that we all feel very strongly about doing well," she said.

On Monday of this week, the

company avoided having protesters from Global Exchange greet shoppers at the store Saturday when it announced it was pulling all items purchased from Myanmar off its shelves. The Free Burma Coalition had planned to protest the company's selling Burmese-made goods under the name "Martaban Collection" in its stores and catalogs. After a military junta took control of Burma in 1990 and renamed it Myanmar, human rights activists have pressured businesses to sever ties with Myanmar due to human rights abuses.

"The product was an entertaining collection — trays and coasters. The last time we made a purchase was in 2000; it was a tiny buy," said Alber. "We have decided to take it off the shelf and are destroying the goods."

Founded in 1949, Pottery Barn has grown from a Manhattan-based chain to a national upscale furniture retailer. Along with the Castro store, Pottery Barn has stores at One Embarcadero, inside the Stonestown Galleria and at 2100 Chestnut Street. ▼

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Ed Clapp with his Sharkbyte piece "Glam Shark."

Rick Gerhardt

Shark art

◀ page 3

be auctioned off, with proceeds benefiting various community organizations and local arts groups.

Artists submitted their plans for decorating the sharks and were teamed with sponsors who paid \$3,500. The money covers the cost of the sculpture, provides the artist with a \$1,000 stipend, and helps pay for marketing and administrative expenses.

"It is a win-win for the artist and the group or organization that benefits from the art," explained Hance. "I think any public project that really emphasizes art and public accessibility to art

is a positive thing."

Hance's piece is on display in front of the San Jose Repertory Theater on Paseo de San Antonio between 3rd and 4th streets. The Downtown Neighborhood Leadership Forum sponsored his piece and the sale of his shark will benefit the Downtown Area Neighborhood Association.

"It is certainly great to see people stop and look and touch the shark. Mine really is intended to be very fun and playful," he said. "The faces have interesting expressions on them. It is done in a way that I hope it provides people a second look."

Known for his watercolor paintings of ethnic images, Hance

next page ▶

NATIONAL NEWS

Terror, tragedy

◀ page 1

groups, particularly men of color and gay men, to engage in the world's third most popular sport: rugby."

Fellow teammate, Bryce Eberhart, strongly agrees with Hogan that Bingham likely stood up to the terrorists.

"Last night the whole rugby team met at the Pilsner to talk about Mark," Eberhart said Wednesday morning. "Before any of the reports came out that there had been some people that rushed the cockpit of the plane, we were all saying last night that it would be very characteristic of Mark to go down without a fight. It was not at all surprising that the one plane that didn't hit the target was one that Mark was on."

"He had an amazingly rich life," added Eberhart. "He did the running of the bulls this summer and

was gored by a bull. He was an avid traveler. He was absolutely adored by his family. I've never seen anyone with more friends and a broader range of friends and different kinds of people, and he was really able to connect with them in a personal and significant way."

Team members plan to hold a formal memorial sometime over the next few days and are posting their condolences on the team's Web site. The site contains a posting from Bingham dated August 28, 2001.

"When I started playing rugby at the age of 16," Bingham wrote, "I always thought that my interest in other guys would be an anathema – completely repulsive to the guys on my team – and to the people I was knocking the shit out of on the other team. I loved the game, but KNEW I would need to keep my sexuality a secret forever. I feared total rejection. As we worked and sweated and ran and talked together this year, I finally

felt accepted as a gay man and a rugby player. My two irreconcilable worlds came together."

Bingham signed his e-mail: "Let's go make some new friends ... and win a few games. Congratulations, my brothers in rugby. Mb."

Bingham owned a public relations company, The Bingham Group, with offices in San Francisco and New York. Friends from all over the world began to post their well-wishes when the news of his death broke Tuesday night.

"The Harbour City Wrestling Club in Sydney sends its condolences to the friends and loved ones of rugger Mark Bingham," wrote an Australian friend, "Our hearts are with you."

"It is being speculated that our brother was one of two who rushed the hijackers and brought the plane down before it was able to reach its target," wrote another. "For those of us who knew Mark, we know, if he was able, it indeed was him. We love you Mark." ▼

Terrorist attacks

◀ page 1

to use them. Above all, there was the unnatural calm.

The police set up checkpoints restricting entry to SoHo that night, said Dobbs. They required a photo ID with an address south of the checkpoints in order to let people through.

Washington D.C.

This reporter was glued to the television screen and saw the second plane hit the WTC as it happened. When news of the hit on the Pentagon came over the airwaves, he moved two feet to the right of this computer and saw the smoke rising from behind the White House, six blocks away behind a screen of trees.

Soon the streets were filled with people streaming out of Washington's business district as the city shut down. Even the ubiquitous Starbucks closed. The afternoon was eerily quiet, frequently punctuated by the wail of sirens as police and medical vehicles raced one way or the other.

The lull continued into the beautiful late summer evening as normally boisterous Dupont Cir-

cle was quieter than a beach deserted August night. One friend was ready to nuke Afghanistan, if that proved to be the home base of the terrorists.

Al-Fatiha, the gay Muslim organization, was one of the few gay organizations to issue a news release on the incident. Founder Faisal Alami joined others "to mourn the loss of life and condemn this tragedy."

He fears that violence will be directed against Arab Americans, much as it was when the federal building was bombed in Oklahoma City and initial speculation laid it to the hands of Arab extremists. But the act proved to be that of a native-born WASP. Authorities have cautioned against jumping to conclusions absent solid evidence of who carried out the act.

An immediate call went out for blood donations. But all gay men are ineligible to make blood donations under current screening policy, regardless of their HIV status or sexual monogamy. "I was in tears when I heard the call go out," said Vermonter Steve Swayne. "I would donate blood in a heartbeat."

Byron worries that some gays and lesbians who lost their part-

ners in the tragedy will face discrimination in trying to collect on insurance policies or remain in their residence. "How will gay people be included?" she wondered.

Dobbs frets about how America will respond to the tragedy. Can it do so "without eviscerating civil liberties?" Comparisons with the attack on Pearl Harbor also raise the specter of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans being hauled off to internment camps created in Wyoming and other isolated areas.

During the "red" crackdown of the McCarthy era of the 1950s, gays were among those singled out for persecution. Byron is hoping that this time there will be a more thoughtful approach and that "there will be an inclination to move away from petty hatreds and differences."

The lower end of Manhattan remains cordoned off, utility service is generally cut off, and there are questions about the safety of some of the subway tunnels running near the WTC. Byron said Lambda's office remains closed and anticipates that it will remain closed the rest of the week.

"Yesterday it all seemed almost theoretical," said Byron. "This morning I just cried." ▼

Shark art

◀ previous page

said the shark is a reflection of his work. Laying out a grid of squares onto the shark, Hance then painted faces within the squares.

"The gridwork is done as if this could have been in the shape of a tree or cow. It just happened to be a shark," he said. "The great thing about all of these sharks is they are so different."

Housed in the lobby of the Knight Ridder building, Clapp's shark is decorated with costume

jewelry and sequins. The shark is sponsored by the media company and will benefit Opera San Jose.

"San Jose is such a workaday world which values making money and materialism. I wanted to make an art work that would be an alternative to that and put a little glamour into life," said Clapp of his design. "I think because San Jose is not a glamorous city, it needed some glamour."

He said his design is a perfect benefactor for the opera company.

"I think they chose me because they are sponsoring the San Jose opera and someone looked at it

and said 'Yeah, sequins, rhinestones, go with that.'

Clapp and a friend came up with the idea and submitted the drawings for the contest. Going for the 'Wow' factor, he said he had achieved his goal.

"We wanted it to have a real visual impact. People look at it and are really kind of stunned by it," said Clapp. ▼

For more information about the exhibit, or to download a map of the shark installations, visit www.sharkbyart.com.

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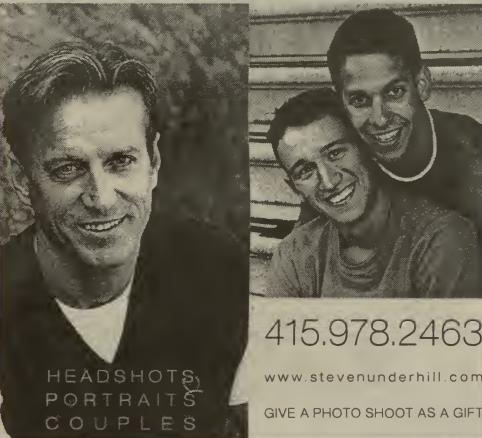
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Eyewitness describes plane assault on WTC

by John Bloom, UPI

On the 42nd floor of Tribeca Tower, four long caddy-corner blocks from One World Trade Center, the picture window rattled and the floor shook in the way that people describe earthquakes, but the sound was deceptive.

Louder than anything I've ever heard before in New York, it seemed like it had to come from below. I looked down for the car bomb or the demolition crew, but a second later a ball of flame shot out of the huge crater that used to be probably seven floors of One World Trade. They got it. The terrorists got a bomb onto the high floors, I thought, where fire rescue is next to impossible. It looked like a Hollywood miniature, something out of *Independence Day*, and it burned like the Dickens. I watched it burn until I realized I was frozen, transfixed.

I flipped on New York One. Nothing yet. I switched over to CNN, where a commentator was saying that a "twin-engine plane" had crashed into the building. The image on the CNN screen was identical to the one through the picture window, but mine was infinitely more vivid. The air was filled with crystal flakes, and the wind was carrying them eastward, toward Wall Street. What were they? Metal? Glass? A twin-engine plane? I was staring into a fiery

gash that cut diagonally through three-quarters of the building, and it's a huge building. Could a twin-engine plane do such a thing? The CNN commentator talked about "navigational guidance systems." It seemed incredible. I waited for the words "terrorist" or "suicide bomber," but he was going on about "flight approaches to La Guardia."

A heavy black object fell straight down from the side of the building, and the smoke from the fire was already forming a mushroom that was moving toward the tourist observation deck of the second tower. Then another black object fell. A few seconds more, then another. What could be so heavy and so large? Parts of the plane? It flashed through my mind that the black objects were people. I instantly dismissed it.

And then the second plane appeared in the sky, from the direction of the Statue of Liberty. It looked like a commercial airliner, and it sailed in over New York Harbor making a gradual descent toward World Trade Two. For a moment it was pointed directly at me, then about five seconds before impact the pilot made an adjustment and banked about 20 degrees. He was making a correction! To go in at an angle? To make sure he hit the center? He sailed in so smoothly. There was that little moment when you see a plane level out before it touches down.

It almost eased into the building. I waited for the blast, and it was strangely delayed. He entered on the opposite side of the tower but I saw the fire shoot out of my side before I heard the explosion. He had hit much lower, around the 50th floor, and this time the gash was infinitely worse. How many more planes were there? How many more buildings were targeted? I was in a tall building! As I headed for the elevator, the CNN commentator, amazingly, even after the second crash was known, continued to talk about "navigational guidance systems."

I walked through the trauma of Lower Manhattan, where thousands were hurrying up the avenues, fleeing the Financial District. They had the shocked, anguished expressions that were familiar from Oklahoma City. I headed for Soho, where there are no tall buildings, and at a coffee shop heard the street erupt in screams as World Trade Two crumpled and toppled. A man whose wife works in the building continued to wail for several minutes. I stopped in an Irish pub in Greenwich Village to pick up news reports. As sirens screamed outside, a dozen of the regulars at the bar spoke angrily of their plans to volunteer for the armed services. By the time World Trade One collapsed, I was at a bar in the West Village where once again everyone rushed onto the street in response to the wails, gasps, and

page 22 ►

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NATIONAL NEWS

Friendly virus may slow HIV infection

by Charles Choi, UPI

A apparently harmless virus known as GBV-C appears capable of improving the survival rate of AIDS patients by slowing down the growth of human immunodeficiency virus, which causes the deadly disease, researchers said last Wednesday, September 5.

"We are now working to understand precisely how GBV-C inhibits HIV from growing," senior researcher Jack Stapleton of the University of Iowa in Iowa City, said in a statement. "Eventually, these findings may help to develop a new approach to HIV therapy, either by using the virus itself or by using GBV-C proteins to activate other proteins or immune responses that could inhibit HIV."

The medical scientists do not recommend, however, that AIDS patients run out and get infected with GBV-C.

"Absolutely not. That would potentially be very hazardous," research team member Daniel Diekema told United Press International in an interview. "It would be premature to suggest that people with HIV should be infected with GBV-C right now. Just because we think that GBV-C has no known disease association right now doesn't mean that we won't find something in the future."

The virus GBV-C was once believed to cause hepatitis or inflammation of the liver. A relative of the hepatitis C virus — which does cause liver damage — GB virus C was first isolated in 1995 from a blood sample obtained in the 1960s from a surgeon with hepatitis. The virus draws the "GB" in its name from the initials of the surgeon. About one out of 50 healthy blood donors in the United States is infected with GBV-C.

"Although GBV-C is very common in humans, it does not ap-

pear to cause any disease," Stapleton said in a statement. "Once it was learned that it did not actually cause hepatitis, many researchers stopped studying it. We continued to study it because we thought it might serve as a model to understand hepatitis C virus."

Four previous clinical studies already have noted a relationship between GBV-C and HIV in patients with both infections. "However, our University of Iowa studies involved 50 percent more GBV-C and HIV co-infected patients than the previous studies combined," Stapleton wrote. "In addition, our laboratory studies are the first to demonstrate an inhibitory effect of GB virus C on HIV."

The clinical part of the research team's study looked at blood samples and mortality data from 362 HIV patients who visited the University of Iowa HIV/AIDS clinic from 1988 to 2000. Nearly 40 percent of these patients also were infected with GBV-C, an infection rate similar to that in all HIV patients.

"We found that HIV-infected

people without GBV-C infection were 3.68 times more likely to die than those with GBV-C," Stapleton noted. "This makes us think that GBV-C is one factor in why some people live longer and more healthily with their HIV infection than other HIV-infected people do."

The laboratory portion of the

study was published in the September 6 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which also contains an editorial from researchers at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, who stressed that while the research had "intriguing implications," there are many questions that remain to be answered and many elements of the story that remain to be discovered.

One of the scientists' main

The medical scientists do not recommend that AIDS patients run out and get infected with GBV-C.

researchers' study examined human white blood cells known as helper T-cells grown on lab dishes. The scientists found cells infected with both viruses produced 30 percent to 40 percent less HIV than those infected with HIV alone. However, the researchers do not yet know why and how GBV-C slows HIV growth.

"It does not appear to prevent HIV from entering the cell," Diekema told UPI. "It probably

concerns is that there is a hidden factor that is actually responsible for the anti-HIV effect. The more measurements we get, the more we will have a better understanding of the science behind the mechanism, to understand whether this is a true association or not," Diekema said. "I don't see any immediate clinical applications. I do see the possibility of new treatments once the mechanism is determined."

"GBV-C was only recently discovered and the potential long-term consequences of persistent infection, especially in persons with weakened immune systems, will not be known for some time," Valentina Stosor and Steven Wolinsky wrote in the editorial.

In an interview with UPI, Wolinsky added intentional inoculations with blood from GBV-C infected patients was extremely inadvisable. "GBV-C is an accidental tourist of sorts, and frequently co-exists with things such as hepatitis C and other more noxious pathogens, which makes the idea of inoculations inherently very dangerous," he said. ▼

IF YOU KNOW
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Hepatitis

◀ page 14

vious exposure to A and B should be vaccinated for those viruses.

The hepatitis A vaccine is a two-shot series, while hepatitis B requires three separate visits to the doctor. Each are spaced months apart. One manufacturer now combines the two vaccines into a single three-shot sequence. Infants are given these shots as part of the package of standard childhood immunization, but the practice is fairly recent.

Just because you complete the series of shots for hepatitis B, do not assume that you have protection from the virus. Some people do not develop antibodies to the bug, or do not develop sufficient levels of antibody to afford protection. The only way to be sure if you do have protective levels of antibody is to have a test done to find out. For those who do not develop protective antibodies, a second series of shots is in order, this time with a double dose of the serum.

One doctor in California, who is at risk for hepatitis B because of his work with people with hemophilia and other blood-related problems, has tried the series of shots seven times and still not generated protective levels of antibody.

Protective levels of antibody may decline over time. It is suggested that those who were vaccinated for hepatitis B more than a decade ago be reevaluated to see if they need a booster shot. ▼

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A new national AIDS watchdog group

by Matt Sharp, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Many advances have been made in HIV treatment due to the hard work and advocacy of AIDS treatment activists all over the world. Despite those advances, a new coalition recently has been formed to enhance the work and focus on a national strategy. Several leading AIDS treatment activists from across the country convened to form the coalition to follow new developments in AIDS research, watch over the pharmaceutical industry, and help educate and mentor new advocates.

Forming a new coalition with such a major scope was not an easy task after several failed attempts over the past couple years. But thanks to a few determined people who have felt frustrated by the representation and accountability of present-day treatment activists, the time had come to create such a project. The new coalition is tentatively called AIDS Treatment Activist Coalition (ATAC). The Center of AIDS Hope and Remembrance Project in Houston hosted the August meeting.

ACT UP spawned most of the treatment activism in the early years of the epidemic. After street activists fought to be recognized through direct action and civil disobedience, some honed their skills and became self-taught, skilled patient advocates, often times with expert knowledge.

They were invited into the boardrooms to discuss protocols and drug development. They fought for ethical trial design, inclusion of women and minorities in studies, and lower drug prices. Activists helped form community advisory boards at research institutions and then a national Community Constituency Group to monitor the AIDS Clinical Trials Group.

As they became more involved with science, research, and development of treatments, the pharmaceutical industry sought input from them for ethical development of their compounds.

At the same time, activists pressured the companies to speed along research and lower drug prices. Today the Food and Drug Administration often invites AIDS treatment activists on its advisory panels for approval of new therapies. Also, treatment activists from organizations like Project Inform spearhead annual think tanks to further research into the complexity of immune restoration. Both activists and industry ultimately have a similar agenda of furthering AIDS research but at the same time have very different intentions.

As the epidemic has grown, becoming more widespread and complex, the loose network of AIDS treatment activists has morphed into a small group of dedicated individuals who remain in



Survive AIDS

the fight, dedicated enough to follow trends in HIV treatment, continuing to make improvement with AIDS research. The activists who are left are often connected to their local AIDS service organizations that pay their way to meetings and conferences and often they have no accountability to people with AIDS at all.

One of the problems inherent with the AIDS treatment movement is that for whatever reason, it has become an elitist group that does not represent all people with AIDS. Most treatment activists will not claim to speak on behalf of all people infected with HIV but in some ways they have

become a select group that unfortunately tends to unintentionally intimidate other AIDS advocates with their high level of knowledge and expertise. In some instances people with AIDS who are not connected to the organizations or who are not on the invitation lists have become less interested in fighting the egos around the table, feeling drowned out by the so-called flying AIDS diva elite, and overall have become less interested in treatment. Some people with AIDS feel frustrated that they didn't have a seat at the treatment activist table and that they have no voice to express the needs of their specific populations. They feel shut out of the process.

Attrition through burnout, apathy, and the unfortunate deaths

of scores of treatment activists has not helped the overall national representation but has enhanced the stronghold of activists who have remained to do the work. Hence, the time for an accountable national group of activists is long overdue and will be needed if appropriate gains will be made in the current state of AIDS treatment.

According to the ATAC Web site written by John S. James, the coalition formulated several reasons in wanting to establish the coalition:

1. There is no national organization or meeting of AIDS treatment activists to discuss and develop overall strategy. (NATAF, the National AIDS Treatment Advocates Forum, serves another purpose, educating new activists and advocates.)

2. Each year there are at least a dozen pharmaceutical company meetings with AIDS treatment activists. These meetings are called by different companies, each of which sets the agenda and decides who will be invited to represent patients and the public. U.S. activists want to move toward the European system of ongoing, structured meetings with the companies, where the community selects its own representatives and invites the company whose products will be discussed, instead of letting industry determine who will represent the community at major company/community meetings. ATAC also hopes to improve communication about the discussions that take place at these meetings, so that activists who do not attend can be informed.

3. Today a small number of highly experienced activists are over-committed. We need to help provide more opportunities for treatment education, and otherwise make it feasible for more

people to become treatment activists.

The coalition wants to focus on biomedical research, including diagnostics, vaccines, and microbicides as well as drugs, and will include AIDS-related illnesses such as hepatitis C and tuberculosis, as well as HIV infection and its complications.

Forming a new national group of AIDS treatment activists will be a daunting task, one for which the logistics are still being developed. Bylaws, membership policies, and other specifics are also being ironed out. One way to be as inclusive as possible is to allow anyone with HIV and their advocates into ATAC. However, the coalition wants to charge nominal individual dues or organizational memberships for nonprofits. Some activists have already questioned requirements to pay dues. Standing committees started at the Houston meeting are bylaws; communication; fundraising; membership; mentoring; and research, development, and access.

Clearly it is time for such a focused national effort. It is hoped that the AIDS advocacy movement that has revolutionized the drug development process and set a precedent for other disease groups has once again led the way in fighting AIDS. Hopefully an open, accountable national group will keep its original intent, through all the egos and infighting, include all people interested in learning and serving as advocates, and bring us into a new focus to ideally speed up a cure for us all. ▼

For more information check out the ATAC Web site:
<http://www.atac-usa.org> or e-mail the coalition at info@atac-usa.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sale benefits AEF



Tom Regan was one of many who helped with the Pine Street Volunteers' 14th annual street sale, held in San Francisco last month. The weather was beautiful and many fine items were donated for the sale. Organizers report there were thousands of books, tapes, objets d'art, housewares, and other items. This year's event was organized by David Slocombe and raised over \$4,700, which will be donated to the AIDS Emergency Fund. A fun time was had by all.

Volunteer Psychotherapists Needed!

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The UCSF AIDS Health Project is funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and private donations.

Virginia GOP gay baits in campaign

by Bob Roehr

Republican gay baiting kicked off the political high holy season in Virginia politics, which along with New Jersey are the only states to elect statewide offices this November. Democrats have fled from the charges, calling them a distortion and twisting of facts.

In a series of direct mail pieces and radio commercials in predominately rural parts of the state, GOP candidates accused their opponents of being "the most liberal ticket in Virginia history," favoring gay marriage and wanting to kick the Boy Scouts out of public schools. "One of them wants to legalize gay marriage in Virginia," said a radio ad placed by the Republican Party of Virginia.

If only the charges were true.

Democrat Tim Kaine, the unnamed target of the ad who is running for lieutenant governor, denies that he supports a gay agenda. Earlier this year, Kaine, the mayor of Richmond said, "Gays and lesbians should not be discriminated against in housing or employment."

But he backed off a statement that some interpreted as supportive of civil unions after the top of the Democratic ticket, gubernatorial candidate Mark R. Warner, stated his firm opposition to gay marriage. Kaine now says, "I think the institution of marriage is fine. I don't believe we need to create an alternative." Nor does he feel a need to repeal the sodomy law, because they are irrelevant and unenforced in private situations.

Jay Katzen, the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, has been the attack dog in this endeavor. He is a favorite of conservative Christian activists. In a joint radio appearance with Kaine, he accused the latter of trying to kick the Boy Scouts out of Richmond schools and of allowing gay-straight alliances to meet in those schools.

Kaine replied that he knew of

no effort to bar Scouts from Virginia schools and would not support such an effort. Nor was he familiar with any gay-straight alliances. As for the Scouts right to discriminate against gays, "I really don't have an opinion on that," said the civil rights lawyer.

In July, Katzen told the Richmond publication *Style Weekly*, "AIDS is the product, sadly, in most cases of a choice that people have made. We recognize that homosexuality is a choice. It's a lifestyle with public health consequences." He feared that repealing the state's archaic sodomy law, one of a dwindling number remaining in the nation, would be "laying the framework for gay marriage."

Few observers are surprised that the fundamentalists' candidates are using gay baiting in Virginia. But they are surprised that it is being used so early in the campaign.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Mark Early has touted his "Virginia values, not Vermont values" as code words near and dear to the heart of his conservative Christian base of support.

Among the Republicans, only Jerry Kilgore, candidate for attorney general, has refrained from gay baiting. In fact, he has expressed an interest in addressing a meeting of Log Cabin Republicans.

The National Stonewall Democrats released a statement attacking the GOP. "This bigotry demonstrates that Mark Early does not deserve to be governor," said co-chair Rick Tromby. Unstated was any word of support for, or even mention of the names of the Democratic candidates in those races. Perhaps it is because those candidates offer so little support for issues that directly affect the gay community.

In contrast, earlier this year

just across the border to the north and east of Virginia, Maryland Governor Parris Glendening put the full weight of his office behind passage of a statewide gay civil rights bill to finally move that measure through the Legislature. And in the District of Columbia gays are such a long standing part of the political establishment that they serve openly at every level of government.

Few observers are surprised that the fundamentalists' candidates are using gay baiting in Virginia. But they are surprised that it is being used so early in the campaign.

struggling, or are perhaps so out of touch that they believe this will work with a majority of the electorate.

Republicans such as Representative Tom Davis and Senator John Warner are supporting the party candidates, but have good relations with their gay constituents and have made it known that they think the GOP candidates have adopted a losing strategy. There is an unspoken sense among many party moderates that they want the extremists to lose, and lose big, so that they can reclaim control of the party.

In the race for governor, early polls show Democrat Warner leading Early by as much as 14 points. Voters seem to like the fact that Warner has a business background, having made a fortune in wireless communications, in this time of economic uncertainty. They also like his more centrist approach. ▼

GLMA

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Donna Shalala. "Ten years ago it wouldn't have made sense to have a Washington office," he said, but with the government acknowledging gays and lesbians in Healthy People 2010, "it really makes sense now for GLMA to have a Washington presence."

Rouse sees his role as "helping to develop a more effective approach to government and respond to things on a face-to-face basis." The San Francisco-based organization has made periodic visits to Washington since its founding.

Gilmer also touted GLMA's

20th anniversary conference in New Orleans at the end of September as "a great opportunity for physicians and other health care providers to get CME [continuing medical education] credit for learning about the specific health care needs of LGBT people."

Maureen O'Leary, executive director of GLMA, said they have added a number of plenary sessions to the conference that will deal with transgender and intersex issues. ▼

For more information on the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and its conference, visit www.glma.org.



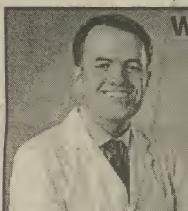
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Sacto AIDS memorial plans move forward

by Dan Aiello

Community leaders, activists, artists, and volunteers came together in Sacramento's City Hall council chambers September 5 to begin to move the City's proposed AIDS memorial from vision to fruition in one of Midtown's three park squares sometime in 2003.

The meeting, hosted by Council member Steve Cohn (District 1) and his assistant Sue Brown, was attended by representatives from Sacramento's gay and lesbian community, the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association, the Winn Park Neighborhood Association, and the local art community. Gary Fagerskog, who conceived the fountain idea as part of a class project four years ago, also attended.

The initial meeting focused both on design and location for the memorial. Originally proposed for Winn Park, Marshall Park on J Street and Roosevelt Park on 16th Street now are also under consideration. Because this is a city memorial, the state's Capitol Park is not a possibility.

Two preliminary designs by artists Andy Markley and Abundio Munoz were discussed. Markley's design focuses on a large red ribbon resting on a granite disc and surrounded by a reflecting pool. Munoz's design depicts a circle of people around an obelisk. Both designs were well-received by those at the meeting.

Also discussed at the meeting was the desire by Sacramento's gay and lesbian community to dedicate a place at the project site to honor former Mayor Ann Rudin, whose political courage during

the beginning of the AIDS epidemic led to passage of Sacramento's anti-discrimination ordinance, an AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance, as well as her work to fund the city's AIDS housing and prevention programs.

Location concerns focused on foot and pedestrian traffic differences between the different park sites and also space. Major events like the AIDS Ride, AIDS Walk and candlelight vigils will require enough room for the memorial to host these events.

A final budget cannot be determined until the site and design are finalized. However, a preliminary estimate for the project is \$150,000. The city will likely seek both private and public funding for the fountain. An account has been established with Sacramento's "Gifts-to-Share" program. All donations are tax-deductible. ▼

That is so gay

by Jim Provenzano

Heavyweight boxers Lennox Lewis and Hasim Rahman fought like a couple of WWF wannabes at the ESPN Zone in Anaheim, California, after a bout of verbal abuse egged on by the show's host. No one was injured, except for bruised egos and one boxer allegedly half-outed.

Lewis and Rahman will fight in a rematch for the heavyweight belt November 17, but apparently can't wait to get in a tussle together. Sixteen minutes into an interview with anchor Gary Miller that was to be aired next week, Miller chided Rahman, the champion who dethroned Lewis earlier this year, about his questioning the Brit's sexuality in a radio interview.

It should be known that Lewis denies he is gay. He lives with his mother and a pet poodle in London.

Oh, behave.

Here's a shortened transcript of the show:

Lewis: "Why are you starting with that gay stuff?"

Rahman: "I'm 100 percent a woman's man. If he has worries about that, bring your sister, bring anyone."

Lewis: "I'm not gay. Why are you calling me gay? He said he's not calling me gay, so I don't understand that."

Rahman: "I said what he did was gay. He wanted to take it to the courts ... I said that's gay to take it to the courts. I mean, I don't know why he was offended."

Maternal epithets bounced back and forth, and a sorry-ass wrestling with chairs match ensued.

"We don't want that, guys," blurts a white offstage producer.

Oh you don't? You don't want people to bet and pay money to see two black men first make fools of each other, then beat each other up?

Background noise: A woman's voice over the intercom during the melee asking audience members not to stand on the chairs.

ESPN claims the incident was not staged to promote the fight, or that fake homosexuality was used to promote anything, unlike Janus-faced zombie X-freak schizo publicity whore Anne Heche.

"I am definitely, definitely not gay and never have been," Lewis

told London's *Daily Telegraph* last year. "I love women." Anne said all that too, but in reverse. Those darn Fresno space portals, always leave you so confused afterward.

Lewis, like many a gorgeous flamboyant boxer or male athlete, considers himself God's gift, claiming that he likes to stand naked in front of the mirror and admire his body. "And

I thank the Lord. I thank God for what he has given me." We wouldn't mind if he did that in public.

The question is the gender of those whom he's giving it to, other than his mother and the poodle.

Amid some other very clear insights, Thomas Hauser of Houseofboxing.com commented that it said more about Rahman's bigotry than Lewis' sexuality. Hauser co-wrote *Healing: A Journey of Tolerance and Understanding*, with Muhammad Ali. This should be put on Rahman's must-read list.

After their first match with Lewis in South Africa, while the defeated Lewis happily met with Nelson Mandela, Rahman refused, claiming he was "tired."

I'd say so. Somebody musta took his humane mojo.

Boxed in or out

Several handsome male boxers have been questioned about their manliness amid the deeply homoerotic sport of sweat and silk shorts.

Robin Reid, also of the United Kingdom, has been quoted as saying he doesn't care what people think, when his posing with only his belt caused rumors in some fan quarters, but he does prefer chickies, duckies, and the like.

Oh, behave.

The only known gay or lesbian boxers are Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi of the Bay Area, and Mark LeDuc of Canada. Are there more gay boxers than we know? Should they come out? Should they be prepared to defend themselves on talk shows where the hosts bait their opponents to Jerry Springer proportions?

To quote boxing trainer Lou Duva, "You can sum up this sport in two words: You never know."

Focus group grope

In the "depraved heterosexuals luring innocent boys into corruption" department, this was found on craigslist:

"Are you 18 years old and do



Humpty dance: Rahman noodles with Lewis to prove he da man.

you LOVE sports? Make \$50! We are looking to talk to 18-year-old guys who love to play and watch sports. This is for a focus group that will be next Wednesday, August 22 at 5 p.m. It will go on once a month for three months. You will be paid \$50 cash each time.

You can also bring a friend who loves sports. We'll give you pizza and snacks and we just want your opinion. Call Jeff and leave message with name and number to contact you!"

Other ways to contact poster:

"Principals only. Recruiters, please don't contact this job poster. Phone calls about this job are OK. Please do not contact job poster about other services, products, or commercial interests. Re-posting this message elsewhere is OK. This is in or around San Francisco."

See, they do recruit.

Angelic isle boostin'

So do we.

We are all cordially invited to the 20th annual Lesbigay Sports Day Festival presented by Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners, Saturday, September 15.

This event is also a potluck lunch-type thing, so follow the Hints from Heloise alphabetical guide: Is your last name A-G? Bring a dessert. H-Q a main dish, and R-Z, make with the Jell-O and

carrots and whip up a salad.

Bring your own drinks, serving utensils, and something to grill, if you like. Team San Francisco and the SF FrontRunners will provide plates, plastic ware, cups, condiments, hot grill, etc.

You also might want to bring sports equipment for running, bicycling, volleyball, softball, football, Frisbee, hiking, swimming, or any other activity of your choice or spend the day enjoying the beautiful natural setting. There's a big field for a bit of tag anything, a small diamond, and a bike trail that circumnavigates the island.

Roundtrip ferry ride and tickets are \$10.50 and available in advance from Team San Francisco, FrontRunners, and the day of the event at Pier 41.

Early risers, take the 9:45 a.m. ferry. Depart from Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf (415-705-5555). Additional sailings are at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more info: Team San Francisco (415) 522-2386 (voice mail), www.teamsf.org or info@teamsf.org; Angel Island State Park (415) 435-1915; or Blue and Gold Fleet (415) 705-5555 www.blueandgoldfleet.com. ▼

Got a fall sports event coming up? Sure ya do! E-mail jimprom@hotmail.com, or visit www.sportscomplex.org.

Eyewitness

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screams of the crowd. On the TV in the bar, President Bush made his first address from a bunker somewhere in Louisiana.

He used the word "faceless coward," and I thought it was a curious phrase to use. I thought of the few seconds just before the impact of the second plane. I had seen him come in from the only side where he could avoid the black smoke and have a precise target. I had seen him go in at exactly the angle he chose. He might

be a madman, a fanatic, the personification of evil, but he wasn't a coward. He had remained perfectly calm and in control until the very end. He had wanted to die and he had wanted to take thousands with him. With the nose of the plane he had parted the bright white crystals that were fluttering over the city, and he had made a perfect landing. He had knocked down the most famous office building in the world. I started to sob quietly. It had taken an hour and a half but now I remembered what I had seen. It was that maneuver that got to me. That 20-degree bank. He had made certain. ▼



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Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Concerned about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and untested gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowring Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 1755 Broadway, 2nd floor, Oakland (510) 663-7979

AIDS Support Group

Mass Help Redwood AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and where desired spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 863-1581.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS; holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family" on-going support group for gay men, Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association

Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2:30pm. UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aging, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also, groups in Spanish, Chinese). Info: 800-660-1993.

ARIS

AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Bay Positive

Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle

Nonprofit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual parents, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Breast Cancer Action

Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Brown Boys

Drop in group for gay/bi Latino men under 25, addressing HIV and other survival issues. Meets every Mon. at 6:30pm. PCPV, 2973 16th St. 864-7278.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: Gay men's spirituality and healing group beginning 9/28; gay men's mid-life group beginning 9/27; heterosexual men's group beginning 9/28. Must call for times and to pre-register. 292-1521.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza

The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women

Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men

Meets Weds., 5:30-7pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kevin Pedretti. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence

Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselor on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gay and lesbian Jewish synagogue. Services every Friday at 8:15pm. 290 Dolores Street at 16th Street. 861-6932.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 356-8114.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every Weds., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Diabetics

Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dimensions

Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LBGTQ youth ages 12-23. Confidential, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters and people living with AIDS at the Richard M. Cohen Residence. For info or to volunteer call (415) 565-7672 x370 to register.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS

Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Duran Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit

A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:30pm, in SF. 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1781.

G40+ Club

A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1781.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free, confidential OraSure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12:30-4:45pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic

Confidential, free, client-centered HIV testing,

provided conveniently in the evening at an accessible location. Test results are not kept on file. 487-5632.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave, San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Duran Ave, Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network

Cross-city organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax, free action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV Employment Rights Project

Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about employment rights in the workplace. Call 593-0035 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free in California.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight, Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Open group for gay men, individual and couples counseling, drop-ins every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIV Care

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1:20pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1534.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sitting Group

Meditation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends. Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am). Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions

Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info., call 824-3269.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Laughingstock

Free comedy improv workshop for people with HIV/AIDS, presented by Bay Area TheaterSports. Call for sessions 474-8935.

Lesbian Social Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/So. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. (510) 790-2887.

Lesbian Support Groups

On mental health issues; peer counseling, support and referrals for SF residents. Call Connie, 552-0788.

Lesbians with Cancer

12 week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Linea de Ambiente

Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian, and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Linea de Ambiente (GELA), 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm. M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Maitri Residential Care

For people disabled by HIV requiring 24-hour medical care. For info or to volunteer, call 558-3000.

Men's Circle

Despite the painful and distressing events in your past, you can move beyond these experiences and learn to reconnect with others and with living fully and freely again. Come and join other gay/bi men on this journey to freedom. Full Circle Community Counseling. Low fees/free initial intake. 255-0100.

Molested Boys:

"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audio tape. Call 552-4270.

Most Holy Redeemer

AIDS support group. Seeking volunteers to provide practical and emotional support to PWAs. For information and application, call 864-1581.

Native American AIDS Project

Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

New Leaf

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans communities. Info/intake: 626-7000.

New Love

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans communities. Info/intake: 626-7000.

Native American Project

Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

Project HOPE

Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 556-8124.

Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for information.

Positive Gay Humanists

International organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

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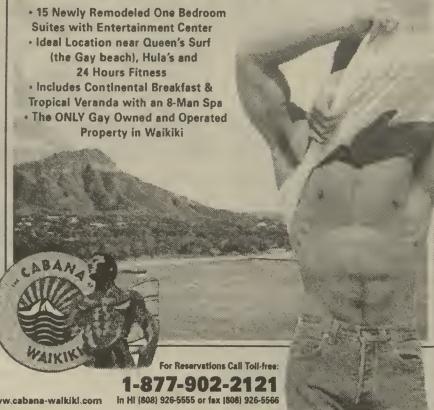
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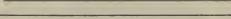
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Tango queens and movie stars
'Sirena, Queen of the Tango' at Rhino,
'Vivien' at Magic: Theatre in review.

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At the end of her sword
So long, Xena, Warrior
Princess, in 'Lavender Tube.'

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Good sportsmanship
Gay and tranny Thai
volleyball in 'Iron Ladies.'

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 37 • 13 September 2001



Jessica Liedberg and Lisa Lindgren
in Lukas Moodysson's *Together*

Hippie love returns

Getting it
Together
Swedish-style

by Brandon Judell

In *Show Me Love* (the cleaned-up American title for *Fucking Amal*), filmmaker Lukas Moodysson perfectly captured the angst-ridden joys of being a teenage lesbian in the midst of her first affair. The film won the top gay prize at the Berlin Film Festival, and is considered by some to be one of the best lesbian films of the decade.

Now poet/director/writer Moodysson has moved from an exploration of churning hormones among the aced, same-sex set to the comic idiosyncrasies, poses and loves of a '70s Swedish commune nestled within a suburban neighborhood.

Together begins with a hippie meeting about who's cleaning up and who's not. Even leftists have to do household chores. But the meeting moves into chaos, because one member who recently went lesbian is walking around bare-bottomed. What's the problem? she asks. After all, the dear gal has a fungal infection she wants to air out.

Her hunky ex-husband, who still adores her, decides what's good for the goose is good for the gander, and he strips, revealing a rather large, uncut member.

Into this semi-nude bickerfest, enter a straight-laced mother with her two kids. She's seeking shelter from a physically abusive, alcoholic spouse. What has she got her family-on-the-

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Lily of the field

The Search for intelligent life in San Francisco

by Richard Dodds

Lily Tomlin no longer scolds audiences, not that she needs to. After all, her celebrity is assured, her audiences worshipful. But much earlier in her career, when she was developing a hipper, edgier identity after her years on *Laugh-In*, Tomlin was known to chastise an audience for less than a total commitment to her efforts. At times, she'd even leave the stage midway through her act, telling the venue to refund the tickets.

"I was a cheeky thing," Tomlin said as she revisited those days. "I used to be much more demanding of the audience. In fact, I was almost fanatical about it at one point. I daresay I'm not like that anymore."

And how does she account for this change? "I've become a better person, in a sense," she said. "I'm more forgiving."

In fact, Tomlin describes *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* as "an homage to the species," the human species. "The thing that I love the most that has been written about *The Search* was when a reviewer said, 'At the end, we were on our feet applauding our higher selves.'"

Fifteen years after its first Broadway run, *Search* was back in New York this past season for a well-received revival. Beginning this week at Theatre on the Square, Tomlin will resume her *Search* in San Francisco, the first and, at this point, the only city set for a post-Broadway production.

"I'm not booked to do anything because Jane and I are just finishing a new house that we're hoping to move into after San Francisco," Tomlin, 62, said from Los Angeles. Jane, of course, is Jane Wagner, Tomlin's life partner for the past 30 years and the author of *Search*.

"I'm always begging Jane to write because I always love what she writes," Tomlin said. "She sent me the first act of *The Search* out of the blue while I was performing in Kentucky, and then the whole thing arrived while I was at Seattle Rep. They had a benefit with a lot of civic leaders in furs and jewels, and it was the first time I did *The Search*. It took about four hours and people were nodding off. You could hear jewels clinking as heads dropped."

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by Roberto Friedman
and Bobby Breadline

We're still stunned as we go to press Tuesday by this morning's tragic events. In shock at the capacity of man's inhumanity to man. Our greatest fear is that right-wing elements (currently in charge!) will use the attacks as a pretext to curtail civil rights in this country. Goddess help us.

Brother can you spare a tax?

Everywhere we went last week, we were alert for signs of the Bush Recession II. After the fallout from the NASQUACK and the dot-bomb, we're never surprised to see empty seats in restaurants or theaters, but it was a full house at the SF Symphony opening gala. The swells and their trophy wives were still decked out in black tie and décolletage, but there seemed to be less foliage than usual at Davie and fewer bouquets of flowers (like none) in the party tent. The tent did feature plenty of plasma screens. OT remembers when a trip to the plasma bank meant something entirely different.

At the SF Jazz Fest press launch at Enrico's, there was still lunch and delicious live music for the assembled. Legendary performance artist Laurie Anderson played a minimalist set at Bimbo's (no plasma screens); and, in their first visit to the Gay Area, pop group Belle & Sebastian made beautiful music at the Warfield, songs for the new depression. Maybe we should take notes from them, as we're told Scots do know how to squeeze a penny.

We see that the opening party for Pottery Barn tomorrow night at the venerable intersection of Market and Castro Streets features a "special performance" by glam drag personality RuPaul. From headlining Gay Pride stages to working a Pottery Barn launch, all in the twinkling of a false eyelash — oh, the fickle finger of fate! Still, a paycheck is a paycheck.



ONSITE Dance Company: In the Street festival coming to the Tenderloin.

Tank girl

On the subject of fleeting glory, there's a little trick that Hollywood movie publicists use when they know their **unbelievably insipid product** is going to tank. They'll schedule the film's press screening for so late a date that professional movie reviewers — certainly those for weekly publications, sometimes even those for the daily papers — can't possibly make their deadline. The fewer people who read advance reviews, this hard-nosed Ho'wood strategy goes, the better. Lure ticket-buyers in before word gets out about what a bomb the flick is.

So OT readers will know what to expect when we tell them that the new **Mariah Carey** vehicle



Get well, Mariah

Glitter will screen about three hours before it opens, then promptly sink from sight. OK, we guess no one can expect La Carey to do full-press promotion for some vapid movie project when she has a full-scale nervous breakdown to enjoy. But BAR will try to be there for her in a few weeks, when we're finally able to print our reviewer's honest assessment. Better late than never.

Dinner and a show

A usually reliable theatre mole has found out that folk diva **Joan Baez** will soon be taking a turn as the house singer at Teatro Zinzanni, Pier 29 on the Embarcadero. Soon it will be past Midnight at the Oasis for featured chirp **Maria Muldaur**, who is currently enjoying an encore run in the gilded tent, and is probably ready to move on to venues where she does not have to sing to audiences slurping down their baked Alaska. We mean the kind of audiences who still have expense accounts.

To bring out audiences without expense accounts, there's nothing like a street theater festival in the Tenderloin. The 7th annual **In the Street** fest brings dozens of actors and dancers to the colorful 500 block of Ellis Street for an evening of outdoor performances, Friday, Sept. 14, 5-11 p.m. It's all free, so hoard your cash.

Thorny Rosie

We don't know yet if Son of Bush will bring us Hoovervilles and breadlines, but if TV personality and big-boned gal **Rosie**

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THEATRE

Shady lady

'Sirena's comic flair opens Rhino season

by Richard Dodds

Guillermo Reyes cites Charles Ludlam and Charles Busch as stylistic inspirations for *Sirena, Queen of the Tango*, and the connections are easy to see. Old movies are referenced and dramatic styles tweaked in Reyes' new play at Theatre Rhino.

And while all three writers use drag to add a further twist to the satire, Reyes' characters actually talk about the cross-dressing of the title character. "As long as you're dressed as a woman," says a tough-talking detective who is drawn to Sirena, "then I'm not queer."

Best known for his play *Men on the Verge of a His-panic Breakdown*, Reyes displays a comic flair in *Sirena*, especially in his ability to create a line with an unexpected final filip. But choice bits must share the stage with the rat-a-tat of anything-goes jokes that aren't always delivered with the kind of inspired lunacy that might make them seem better.

Sirena is told in three scenes, each invoking a different set of movie clichés. The title character is a fabulous international star of the tango who is involved in a series of scandals and intrigues. These scenarios can spend too much time on intricacies of plots that don't really matter, and a 90-minute play of three fast-paced scenes could better deliver consistent comedy than the current two-act, two-hour-plus format.

Matthew Martin, known locally for his evocations of Bette Davis, is quite wonderful as the shady dame from the pampas. Martin knows how to work a line to get the laugh, and what he does with his long fishnet-stocking-clad legs is a show in itself.



Matthew Martin, as Sirena, knows how to work a line.

Elizabeth Corneille

Theatre

The comic abilities of the other cast members (Stephen Bass, John-Michael Beck, Jennifer Fagundes, and Yvonne Prince) are geared toward loud and silly. But Javier Galito-Cava does hit some happy notes as a gigolo, and later as Sirena's defense attorney.

Director Hector Correa keeps energies high on the no-frills set (though there is progress to be

made in overall polish), and Zory Karah's choreography adds a bit of flair to this easy-to-take comedy that overstays its welcome by about 30 minutes. ▼

Sirena, Queen of the Tango will run at Theatre Rhino through Oct. 6. Tickets are \$15-\$24. Call 861-5079.

Life of Leigh

Vivid 'Vivien' at the Magic

by Richard Dodds

Vivien Leigh packed a lot of life into her mere 53 years, and Vivien packs a lot of that life into its mere 85 minutes. This solo drama, now at the Magic Theatre, is a superior example of the kind of theatrical vehicle that too often gets stuck in the shallows.

Vivien: The Triumph and Madness of Vivien Leigh, to give its full title, creates a surprisingly complex portrait of the talented but troubled actress, often finding commentary in her plights from the roles she famously played. Credit for the success of this enterprise deserves to be shared by playwright Rick Foster, actress Janis Stevens, and director Barbara Bosch.

Foster has set his play in 1967, in the moments before Leigh's death from complications of tuberculosis. In a fevered dream, she imagines she is at the London theater where she is to begin rehearsals for Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. She can't get a handle on her role, a character who claims to welcome madness, finding this to be a notion that could

only be held by someone who has never crossed over to the dark side.

As her reveries unfold, imagining she is being visited by Noel Coward and John Gielgud, she recalls key moments of her life and career. Laurence Olivier is very often at the center of them, as professional jealousies take as much of a toll as their mutual infidelities on their marriage.

Rather than simply having Vivien recite excerpts from her various roles, Foster has her take her various characters' words and turn them into weapons with which to battle life's indignities. These moments find a dual emotional context for these roles, and also offer the chance to provide some backstage gossip.

Director Barbara Bosch's production is filled with imaginative touches that use the casual scenery and props of a rehearsal stage to create evocations of costumes and even of mental disorders.

In her 85 minutes on the stage, Stevens manages at least as many emotional epiphanies, as she takes us through guises that range from coquette to happy home-maker to manic-depressive. She



Janis Stevens is Vivien.

weaves in and out of her stage and screen roles, including, of course, Scarlett O'Hara and Blanche DuBois, but also Ophelia, Juliet, Cleopatra, Lady Macbeth, and Antigone.

This is a fascinating portrait that rings with veracity, a quality often missing from celebrity-based monodramas. *Vivien* is a sad story told with exhilaration. ▼

Vivien: The Triumph and Madness of Vivien Leigh will run at the Magic Theatre through Oct. 7. Tickets are \$25 and \$30. Call 441-3687.

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OPERA

Soprano Hasmik Papian (Olimpia) and Katia Escalera in *Arshak II*

'Arshak II' exhumed

SF Opera's Armenian extravaganza

by Stephanie von Buchau

You don't have to share General Director Pamela Rosenberg's taste for contemporary composers like Wolfgang Rihm and Bernd-Alois Zimmermann to recognize that the San Francisco Opera's world premiere of *Arshak II*, by Armenian composer Tigran Chukhadjian, was essentially smelly cheese.

Opera fans whose modernism goes no further than *Turandot* came up to me rolling their eyes over this retro 1868 project. Members of SFO's musical staff, who must remain nameless, unanimously suggested that the opera, though ostensibly paid for with \$1 million raised by the local Armenian community, was still a colossal waste of SFO resources — all the more so as they gave it 110 percent.

One cannot impute motives in a critical review, but the question certainly remains as to why out-

going director Lotfi Mansouri stuck his successor with such a large, indigestible project. Perhaps he truly believed in the work, never heard in the composer's lifetime and only performed in the 20th century in a Sovietized version that stressed Stalinist family values. Maybe he was playing the nice guy — an all-too-familiar Mansouri ploy that generally left havoc and hurt feelings in its wake — when an Armenian member of the orchestra suggested that SFO honor the 1,700th anniversary of Armenian Christianity by producing *Arshak II*.

however, at the *Sinfonia* that opens the piece — 18 banal musical ideas and one good brass chorale, reworked for 10 minutes in the manner of Offenbach being parodied by Gilbert & Sullivan. This totally inappropriate piece — given the amount of homicide, rape and torture in the opera itself — was supposedly "lost and reconstructed." Why? Maybe to provide a ballet score for Michael Smuin's next Mesopotamian extravaganza.

To be fair, there are also some effective moments. Queen Olimpia's lament for her dead

Papian's debut was the sole major musical event of the evening.

And possibly, though undoubtedly this is just wild speculation, Mansouri was paying down the bitter karma that saw him enter the SFO job stuck with an equally indigestible slab of 1950s serialism called *Esther*, commissioned from Hugo Weisgall by Mansouri's predecessor Terry McEwen, who incidentally hated modern music. Mansouri was damned if he did *Esther* (at least from the tape I heard of the New York City Opera production) and damned if he didn't (local and international critics haven't stopped bashing him yet for passing on that Biblical exercise in operatic futility).

If I had to make a choice between sitting through *Esther* and sitting through *Arshak II* again (I heard both the dress rehearsal and Saturday's premiere), I think I'd stay home and watch golf on television. For, however they dressed it up — the sets, costumes and stage direction were amateurish, but musically the performances were first-rate — *Arshak II* is not a memorable or even a viable opera. Sure, SFO has done plenty of rotten scores in my lifetime — *The Visit of the Old Lady*, *La Gioconda*, *Angle of Repose*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, just to spread the noxiousness around — but none as anodyne as Chukhadjian's first operatic exercise in Verdi worship.

SFO's program book, which has been awkwardly rearranged this season, is not forthcoming on Chukhadjian. There are bios of the score's editors, of the singers, of the dramatic and musical staffs, but nothing on the composer save a few mentions in a self-serving piece about the musicological reconstruction that is long on fulsome thanks and short on facts. Chukhadjian's dates are 1837-98, which would make him 31 when he composed *Arshak II* — in Italian, as *Arsace Secondo*; SFO did the work in an Armenian translation — after studying at the Milan Conservatory. It is only too obvious that he admired Verdi, whose *Nabucco* (1842) and *Mackeben* (1847) he must have known.

He writes a procession of ghosts right out of Scotland (only as scary), and the ensembles inevitably had me humming "Va, pensiero" (the middle section, not the big tune). There are other baleful influences, particularly the accompaniment from Rossini's *Barbiere* that underlines the chorus' grisly account of how Arshak's sister-in-law murdered his son; it would be hilarious if the words weren't so grim.

One could not help giggling,

child is moving, at least as sung by Hasmik Papian. In general, the arias seemed better when the singers were better; that is, they don't survive as showpieces on their own. There are also a pair of lengthly ensembles, especially the one that closes the first part (Act II), with Olimpia decorating the top line with a couple of high Cs.

Striking debut

Papian's debut was the sole major musical event of the evening. She should have been singing Norma, Leonora or Lady Macbeth. (Casting guru Christina Scheppelmann dropped the ball on that play.) We can only hope that Rosenberg's celebrated ears made note of Papian's beautifully schooled soprano, flexible coloratura, and her ability to sustain soft singing in the upper register. She also has a striking stage presence for such a small woman. Bring her back in some real music, please.

And don't ever bother again with baritone Christopher Robertson (Arshak), for some unknown reason a favorite of Mansouri and his tin-eared minion. Robertson is a large, bulky man with a pip-squeak sound, weak high notes, lackluster phrasing and all the musical and stage personality of a dead mollusk. He was easily outshined by his aide-de-camp, David Okerlund.

Two new tenors — Gordon Gietz (Valinace) and Philip Webb (Knel) — were as effective as they could be with the faceless music they had to sing, but I don't know what to make of mezzo Nora Guibisch as the wronged sister-in-law who kills Arshak's son, poisons the Queen, and then stabs the tyrant in the back. Her performance was vocally rough but physically animated. Her repertory is odd; I wouldn't care to hear her sing Carmen or Mozart. Tigran Martirosian, with a bass wobble you could steer a Zamboni through, did not make a good case for Armenian Christianity as the patriarch Nerses.

Also making a local debut was the celebrated Armenian conductor and composer Loris Tjeknavorian. One could not help wondering what he thought of that dismal overture, but he gave a thoroughly professional reading of the score. Okay, we've paid our dues. Now can we get on to some real opera? ▼

Arshak II plays in repertory through Sept. 30 at the War Memorial. Tickets (\$23-\$165): call 864-3330.

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MUSIC

Off and running

SF Symphony begins season nice and easy

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony and Music Director Michael

Tilson Thomas opened their new season last week with a gala that was relaxed and enjoyable. It was left to the Opera to make a more glamorous fuss a few nights later; this was simply a happy kick-off event.

The 90th season started in a Davies Hall that was conspicuously dressed down for the occasion. No floral displays in the lobby, no pre-concert shenanigans by corporate sponsors, and no lengthy introductions, just a lusty *Star-Spangled Banner* to launch an all-American program, with Old Glory displayed on one side of the stage and the California State flag on the other.

Tilson Thomas looked dapper and energetic as ever, eager to get things moving along. Berkeley composer John Adams, who has entered into an important 10-year commissioning contract with the SFS, was given pride of place with his exhilarating fanfare *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*. The orchestral motor was gunned without a sputter, and the fast-paced show was off and running.

George Gershwin's Overture to *Girl Crazy* was played next and sounded swell, a wonderful cascade of tuneful standards. They'll never write songs like that again, so we can be glad Gershwin was so prolific. New Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik headed a tight string section that added a glistening sheen to the big Broadway pit-band sound.

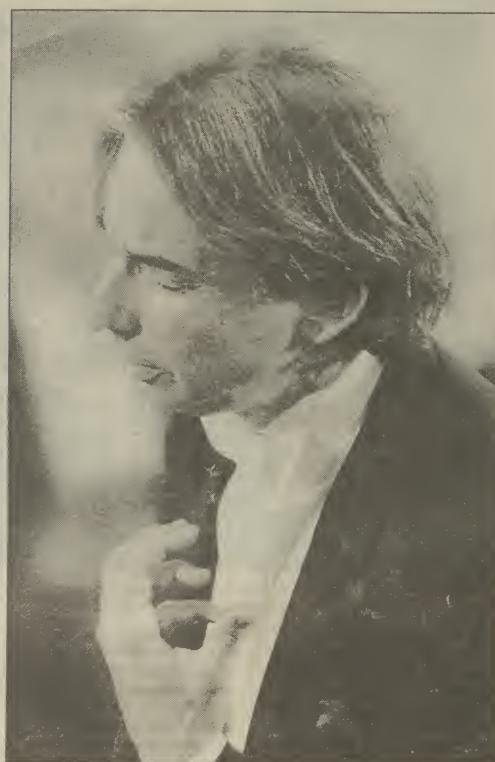
We have grown accustomed, over the years, to MTT's happy collaborations with sopranos, and the adorable Audra McDonald paired with her buddy for a second opportunity to open a season here.

McDonald's triumphant 1998 performance of selections from *Porgy and Bess* was almost eclipsed this year by a medley of songs written by or associated with Duke Ellington. It is a scandal that so little to-do surrounded Ellington's centennial (my own CD collection of his recorded legacy is only second in number to that other modern titan, Stravinsky), but better late and too little than never.

"Sophisticated Lady" was an obvious first choice, and the soloist certainly looked the part in her pretty red gown. "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got that Swing)," with MTT on kazoo and some vocal participation from the orchestra and audience, was a lot of fun. Still, McDonald's vocalise in "On a Turquoise Cloud" and a very good arrangement by Larry Hochman of "(In My) Solitude" were what lingered in the mind at intermission. "Diga Diga Doo" was a blast, but it takes real fitness to rival Billie Holiday's immortal rendition of "Solitude."

Splash down

The lobby was ready for action after the first half with countless glasses of wine and champagne. The formally dressed crowd looked minimalist with few splashes of color in the couture, but the atmosphere was festive enough — thanks, mostly, to the tone of the concert



SFS Musical Director Michael Tilson Thomas goes with the flow.

itself.

Tilson Thomas was clearly in no mood for terribly serious music-making. Wise enough to go with the flow and let the evening bubble along with contagious high spirits, he opened the second half of the program with his greatest musical mentor's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*. Regardless of what the recently departed and well-admired film critic Pauline Kael had to say about that legendary show, I defy anyone to listen unaffected during this fabulous potpourri. Bernstein country has the loving guardianship of MTT to keep it evergreen.

Snapping fingers and shouts of "Mambo" from the orchestra kept the mood fairly light, but those jazzy riffs from "Cool" and the exquisite tenderness of Tony's first sight of Maria proved especially moving. MTT said he encouraged the musicians to play the music the way it "goes" rather than the way it is written, and it was good advice. The results were scintillating.

Audra McDonald returned for a sweetly swaying treatment of Frank Loesser's "If I Were a Bell," and she did a fine job with Tilson Thomas' own "New Year's Song," a nice example of his pleasing writing for voice, catchy and a little nostalgic.

The encore was "It Don't Mean A Thing," and even without a balloon drop or confetti shoot, the audience was ready for the first standing ovation of the season. The crimson flowers at the foot of the stage and the bouquets given the singer and the conductor were the only florals allowed by designer Stanlee Gatti this year, but it didn't really require the usual blooms to make it seem a gala event. The concert was light and just right for a fancy party. It is on to the more serious classics later this month. ▼

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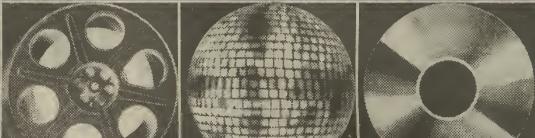
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Screen test

Audacious 'Audition' at the Castro Theatre

by Gary Morris

Reports from the front lines of early cinema suggest that many viewers during the 'teens and before were terrified by the larger-than-life trains, horses, and people that seemed to be coming at them from the screen. That feeling of cinema as edge spectacle blurring the line between object and audience resurfaces with a vengeance in Takashi Miike's *Audition*, opening Friday at the Castro. The film is notorious after festival screenings that resulted in both awards and mass walkouts, as at the Rotterdam Film Festival. To get some idea of its impact, think of *Audition* as a cozy fit with such films as *In the Realm of the Senses*, *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*, or any of the over-the-top gay movies of the past few years with terse titles like *Bone, Frisk or Hard*. If these works upset you, you might consider skipping this one. Hardier souls will get their reward.

Audition differs from its peers in seeming to be two quite different films. For close to an hour it has the look and feel of a classic Japanese family drama à la Ozu, with a middle-class man and his son quietly getting on with their lives after the death of his wife. These scenes are so understated that one can imagine some viewers falling asleep or walking out in boredom.

But Miike's purpose becomes painfully clear when the film switches gears. All that schmaltzy family stuff is part of his strategy of quietly seducing the viewer into an increasingly credible world. Just past midpoint, everything changes: the film bails on the narrative, intertwines dream sequences and reality so densely there's no telling what's real, and pushes the gore to a limit rarely seen outside the cheesy cinematic bloodbaths of '60s schlocksters like Herschell Gordon Lewis. Miike's careful brickbuilding gives surprising heft to what follows, engaging and repelling the viewer in equal measure, but also making it all seem disturbingly real.

Sex education

TV producer Aoyama Shigeru (Ryo Ishibashi) is the middle-class man, Shigehiko (Tetsu Sawaki) his teenage son. His friend, movie producer Yoshikawa (Jun Kunimura), has the perfect palliative for Aoyama's loneliness: test out a number of possible new wives by holding a phony movie audition. The clueless Shigehiko eagerly agrees, and he and Yoshikawa hold interviews marked by questions about sex that seem to have little to do with acting. Aoyama eventually settles on tall, otherworldly waif Asami (ex-model Eihi Shiina). The more seasoned Yoshikawa senses that something's not quite right with Asami; he investigates and finds many a hole in her story. Asami's ghostly presence and grim pronouncements about the death of hope don't foretell a life of party hearty. To say much more would be to spoil the film's unpleasant surprises.

Miike's visuals limn the film's multiple worlds with tense authority. He brazenly juggles time and space, using machine-gun editing and exotic color filters to unhinge viewers, though this game of what is real and what isn't



Ex-model Eihi Shiina in Takashi Miike's *Audition*: engaging and repelling in equal measure.

gets so hyper that it runs the risk of bewildering undercaffeinated audiences. He elicits fine performances from the entire cast. Ishibashi brings a calm nobility to the role of pathetic Everyman, even as he's subtly indicted as a user.

Shiina, dressed in shimmering white, is superb in a difficult role, moving in and out of the film's dreamy ambiance with commanding power. Kunimura registers nicely as the vaguely creepy

producer, while newcomer Sawaki is coolly credible as Aoyama's son.

Miike has been compared to any number of style-heavy goremeisters, most notably Dario Argento of *Suspiria* fame. This is unfair to Miike, given Argento's feeble grasp of narrative and general air of tedium. Miike dispenses with narrative, but it's obvious he's capable of rendering it; and the film is ultimately far from tedious. *Audition* has been the subject of widespread commentary,

praise and attack, interpreted as a feminist revenge movie, a screed against Japanese society's objectification of women, a protracted exercise in sex 'n' sadism, a neogore film, and a dark farce. To say that it feeds all these interpretations to varying degrees is not a criticism, but evidence of the movie's disturbing riches. *Audition* would make an ideal "midnight movie," except that it would be 2 a.m. when you left the theater, in the dark. ▼

Girl gets laid

At last, the wait is over at the Lumière

by Jenni Olson

Over the years we've seen so many lesbian features where it takes at least an hour to get to the love scene, and when it finally happens, more likely than not we're disappointed. There's no chemistry between the women, or they kiss each other the way your 60-year-old parents do. It's no wonder we're so desperate to see lesbian actors playing lesbian roles — at least they wouldn't be afraid to kiss each other!

At last, the wait is over, and our patience is being rewarded. I have no idea of the sexual preference of the lead actors but, from its stylized opening credit sequence to its classic noir conclusion, director Sande Zeig's debut feature *The Girl* offers up a striking visual style, a moody soundtrack, poetic voiceover, exceptionally gorgeous leads, and genuinely sexy sex scenes, with lots of deliciously passionate (*tres* French) kissing.

Our nameless protagonists (known simply as The Girl and The Lover) engage in a cat-and-mouse seduction game throughout the course of the film — and, happily, we get hot make-out scenes in the first 10 minutes. The chemistry here is undeniable. The titular Girl (Claire Keim) is a petulant French femme chanteuse; The Lover (played by the stunning Agathe de la



Agathe de la Boulaye and Claire Keim in Sande Zeig's *The Girl*

Boulaye) is an enigmatic American butch painter. And then there's the ominous and obscurely mysterious owner of the night-club where The Girl spends her nights singing while The Lover relentlessly cruises her.

"Violent delights have violent ends," says The Lover's other lover, Bu Save (Sandra N'Kake), foreshadowing the film's somewhat drawn-out finale. Without giving away the ending, let's just say that *The Girl* is a cautionary allegory

about the perils of non-monogamy. Be prepared for a very contemplative narrative pace and lingering camerawork (the film is also a cinematographic love affair with the facial expressions of our new favorite actress, Agathe de la Boulaye). You should also be prepared to experience the sexiest lesbian movie of the year. ▼

The Girl opens Friday at the Lumière.

Spike leeway

'The Iron Ladies' get famous

by Jim Provenzano

In 1996, when the Iron Ladies, a volleyball team in Thailand composed mostly of gay men, transgenders and transsexuals, won the national championships, it made international headlines. The team grew legions of fans who adored the grace and poise of the gender-defying athletes.

Last year, *The Iron Ladies*, the slightly fictionalized film version of the team's rise to fame and victory, became Thailand's second most successful film of all time.

Since then, it's been shown at film festivals around the world, and it opens a commercial run Friday at the Bridge Theatre.

The Iron Ladies tells the true story of a male volleyball team made up mostly of gays and transvestites that makes it to the Thai National Championships. The story begins when two gays are picked for the Lampung team, prompting the rest of the team, except one straight player, to quit, which leads the two men to fill out the rest of the team with a *cage aux folles* both athletic and flamboyant.

First-time director Yongyoth Thongkonthun has become quite popular following the release of the film, voted by audience members as Best Feature at Frameline's 25th International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Other awards include the Reader Jury of the Siegessaule, and Special Mention Teddy (Gay Award) at the 2001 Berlin International Film Festival. While a favorite at film festivals, its general release may draw more straight viewers curious about the high-octane queenly behavior. *Variety* claimed that its "screaming-queen stereotypes will look pretty retro in most Western markets, even if an earnest pro-tolerance message disarms potential offense."

"Making a film about this story was a challenge unto itself, since it's well-known that films about gay people and sports are seldom well-received by audiences," said Thongkonthun. "I believe that in real life, gays are very much the underdogs, just like the

characters in my film. But they are also entitled to lead a life of dignity, just like the general population."

Cast away

The director says he "broke every taboo in film" by making a gay sports movie. Yet some viewers might want more honesty in casting: Thongkonthun hired straight actors to play gay people.

"To get my message across, it was better to use straight actors playing gays, because I didn't want my audiences focusing on the 'gayness' of my cast," he said in a press statement.

"The drama in the film might not be achieved if I used all gay men. The straight actors had to be coached for two months prior to the shooting to expose the more feminine qualities of themselves."

The closing credits of the film show the actual Iron Ladies to be much less affected in their behavior than in the somewhat fictional cinematic version.

Although transgenders, or *ka-toys*, intentionally cultivate their femme appearance and demeanor, some critics have noted the comedic interpretation to be a bit excessive. Others enjoy the light-hearted aspect to the film.

Jojo Mioxshi, who plays Nong, a gay sergeant in the army, whines about having to trim his lengthy fingernails, which repeatedly puncture volleyballs.

Wit (Ekachai Buranapanich) is more straight-acting, and is forced to come out to his parents to prevent an arranged marriage. Watching his gay and femme friends butch it up upon meeting his parents serves as one of the most hilarious moments in the film.

Of the many actors portraying gay people, only Kokorn Benjatikul, who plays the diminutive Pia, is himself gay. Having known about the Iron Ladies team, Benjatikul felt honored to be in the film that tells their story.

And although his self-claimed femme demeanor in the film may be an extension of his own life, Benjatikul said he has experienced little discrimination in his public life. ▼



Director Yongyoth Thongkonthun breaks taboos in his first feature film, *The Iron Ladies*.

"Since most people can't tell my gender from my appearance, they don't think I'm different," he said. "Those who know don't show any negative reaction. If anything, they seem to admire me more."

The handsome Jesadaporn Pholdee, who plays Chai, one of few straight members of the team, is one of few actors in the film with prior acting experience, but did not have qualms about being in the film.

"A comedy film about sports and gay guys is quite an unusual mix," he said. "Although almost all the lead characters are gay, the film doesn't glorify them. It simply shows different sides of gay people which some of us have not seen before."

With pretty much every Western gay sports film stalled by heterosexuality and gay Hollywood caution, it's nice to see such an underground film become a surprise hit.

Despite the excess of nail- and makeup-obsessed jokes, *Iron Ladies* inserts good-natured lessons in tolerance and high-camp theatrics in a sports-themed film, a rare if not unique achievement. Knowing the antics actually happened, although in a slightly more subtle manner(ism), makes it an irresistibly endearing film. ▼

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Out There

◀ page 30

O'Donnell keeps laying off her staff, unemployment indices will rise. Three former members of her security staff are suing the talk show host, claiming their conversations in her home were illegally recorded by a device hidden in a smoke detector.

Fox quoted one of the security guards as saying he felt close to the star and her children: "We developed a bond with the kids, we were the male figures in their lives pretty much."

When the men complained about being secretly recorded, they were promptly canned. They surmise Big Sister was watching them because O'Donnell is concerned about leaks to the press re: her private life. Rosie, whatever do you have to hide? Wouldn't you be happier if you just came out with it?

Temporary insanity

Brother directors **Jacob** and **Josh Kornbluth**'s feature film debut, *Haiku Tunnel*, is a white-collar comedy filmed right here in



Brian Thorstenson and Josh Kornbluth, gainfully employed.

San Francisco and Oakland. Josh stars as an aspiring novelist and actual office temp. At his new assignment, a law firm with the acronym S&M, scary head secretary Marilena (SF actress **Helen Shumaker** of *Mona Rogers* fame) asks him to go "perm." ▼

The film is one point on a trajectory that includes **Josh Kornbluth**'s monologue workshop at San Francisco's Z Space Studio. The cast includes the film debut of SF actor and playwright **Brian Thorstenson** as the bitchy secretary Clifford. ▼

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The parent trap

Growing up with lesbian, gay, and transgender moms & dads

by Deborah Peifer

Many of us queers spend a lot of time commiserating with one another about the nightmare of being raised by heterosexuals. "Woe is me," we cry, in our cups or not, as we consider our cursed fate, to be born to breeders. Considerably less effort or angst has been directed to those children raised by queer parents. "What bliss," we exclaim, and yet...

Consider that all parents of teenagers are completely lame, and a source of utter embarrassment not only to their children but to the very lilies of the field and the sparrows in the sky. What could be more trying than parents who are plainly not even trying to blend in, better yet disappear, but have chosen to live a life guaranteed to bring dis-

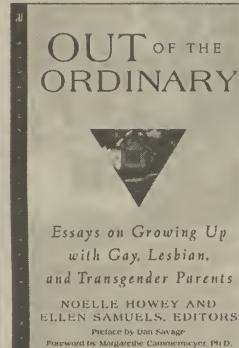
approbation. Add raging homophobia, and the result is not only humiliating but hazardous.

When I was in graduate school, one of my students came to me after a rehearsal and asked with studied nonchalance, "How do you know when you're a lesbian?"

My life flashed before my eyes. I was out and proud, but I wasn't sure I wanted to deal with a teenager's concerns about her sexuality. Before I had a chance to speak (and say something I knew would damage this young woman forever), she continued, "I just wondered because my mom's one."

I did a little better with that, but wished desperately that I could suggest a book that she could read. *Heather Has Two Mommies* (Lesléa Newman, Alyson), though a wonderful

choice in most circumstances, seemed not quite the thing. But there was no book, nothing to say to the children of gays and lesbians and transgenders that they were not alone, that it was possible to survive, even love queer parents.



Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents, edited by Noelle Howey and Ellen Samuels, \$13.95. Foreword by Moira Rodger, PhD. Preface by Uni Savap.

Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents, edited by Noelle Howey and Ellen Samuels, \$13.95, is the book I wish I could have offered that young woman 15 years ago. A collection of extraordinary essays written by professional writers and novices (several of the essays represent the authors' first published work), *Out of the Ordinary* goes to the heart of feeling different and alone, and offers kids a chance to see that parents, even queer parents, really aren't queer just to mortify their children.

Sarah Gould's "Nothing to Me" is a painful exploration of the void in her life when her mother's lover leaves abruptly, without an explanation or even a goodbye. "Acting Lessons" is Peter Snow's horror story of a lesbian who stays with her husband for the sake of the child, and helps to create a house filled with rage and hatred. Stefan Lynch ("I Remember Reaching for Michael's Hand") realized that "the years that I've spent living with my very-closeted mother have taught me that the shame of the closet is much worse than the openness of my dad's life, even if the act of being honest

made us vulnerable to violence." *Out of the Ordinary* is a moving and courageous collection which belongs in every high school and in the hands of every kid dealing with the joys and miseries of living with queer parents.

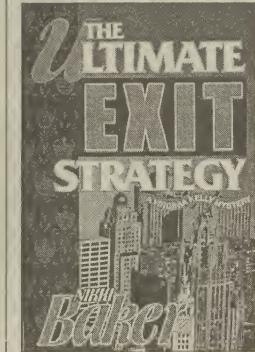


Fiction fine and flawed

Marianne K. Martin has been working on the coming-out novel for a quite a while, with, alas, little success in my opinion. She seems to have got it right this time, with *Mirrors* (Bella, \$11.95), a novel of coming out, relationship angst and job anxiety that works because Martin takes the time to explore just how her characters think and feel about what's going on in their lives. That willingness to take time puts *Mirrors* well above the ordinary lesbian romance. Jean Carson is a straight gym teacher (is that legal?) terrified that only her status as married lady protects her from being exposed as a lesbian. She stays married to a man for the safety that provides but, as the novel opens, is having more and more trouble faking it. Her best friend, a dyke lawyer named Shayna, is a workaholic, up to her elbows in relationship troubles because her job is always more important than whatever woman currently occupies her bed. Shayna is a woman who can answer the phone during sex, a fact that is less than endearing to her partners.

Martin examines the inner lives of her characters with care and sympathy, and we get to un-

derstand their motivations in ways that are both touching and extremely interesting. Living in the gay Mecca, it's easy to forget just how rough things are in fly-over land. Martin makes the dangers real, and when her characters develop the courage to stand up to those perils, we cheer for them, because we really understand just what it took for them to take the risk.



Nikki Baker's latest Virginia Kelly mystery, *The Ultimate Exit Strategy* (Bella, \$11.95), is a major disappointment. Let me offer one illustrative example. On page 1, Virginia starts to faint. On the way down, she is reminded of a visit with her friend, Naomi. That memory jogs another and another until, on page 133, Virginia actually completes the faint. Now, I'm willing to grant some creative latitude, but nobody takes 133 pages to faint. The mystery part of this little treasure (in the Margo Channing sense of something that needs to be buried) is stunningly inept, with the solution arrived, unheralded, at the magic page when the author decides it's time to wrap things up. The newest Nikki Baker novel will disappoint her fans. We expect better from this formerly talented mystery writer. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

Lily Tomlin

◀ Arts cover

But by the time a streamlined *Search* arrived on Broadway in the fall of 1985, nobody was nodding off. The show was embraced by audiences and critics, and Tomlin took home the Tony Award as best actress in a play for her portrayal of 13 comically human characters trying to make sense of their lives.

Star 'Search'

The notion of a return to *Search* first struck Tomlin during a series of workshops she conducted for theater students at USC in 1998. "When I did some scenes from *The Search*, these kids were so responsive," Tomlin said. "I felt it was just as funny and moving, if not more so, and I thought, 'Oh, God, I wish we could take this back to New York for a few weeks.'"

During the run, which grew to 26 weeks, Tomlin was a guest at a brunch at Sardi's sponsored by the American Theatre Critics Association. The other guests were

many of the other stars in current Broadway shows, and one by one, they all spontaneously took their moment at the podium to pay tribute to Tomlin and the effect she has had on their lives.

"It was sweet and kind, and everyone was very generous, but it was like they went into some sort of mass hypnosis," Tomlin said of the event. "I think it came from the impact that *The Search* had the first time around on actors and other theater people. I don't even attribute it to myself. I was sort of the vehicle to interpret the play."

Tomlin is always quick to give credit to Wagner for creating the words that she says on stage. "I'm not foolish enough to use my own words over Jane's," she said. "But I understand how to use her material. Of course, we're very close, and I understand the sensibility."

After seeing a teleplay by Wagner in 1971, Tomlin contacted the writer and offered her a job. The collaboration, both personal and professional, became permanent. "We've been through a lot together," Tomlin said. "We've had lots of

reversals and lots of incredible successes. We had a businessperson who took a great deal of money from us, and that's a big adjustment to make. But we congratulate ourselves because we never blame each other."

Though the nature of their relationship has been known for almost as long as they've been together, Tomlin has only recently come out in an official way.

"If anyone had ever asked me point blank, I would have never lied," she said. "But I never felt I was not out, really. I always was with Jane, and I always referred to Jane. I understand politically and socially about being visible and coming out and so on. But I didn't want this to be the focus of everything I do. And I'm protective of my mother because of her age. She enjoys being my mother, and she's known Jane for 30 years, but I don't want her bombarded with questions every time she goes to the beauty parlor."

'Time' out

Although Tomlin made the next page ►

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DANCE

Miscellaneous medley

Purple Moon Dance Project's 'Tenth'

by Michael Wade Simpson

In restaurant-land, fusion food is all the rage. New York, London and Paris all offer trendy spots where Continental flavors mix with Asian. Here in San Francisco, Asian presence is more than a fad; it's a way of life, and not just in restaurants. In the arts scene, Jill Togawa and her Purple Moon Dance Project take the fusion cake. Her mix is modern dance along with Hula, Japanese, Balinese and African folk traditions. Add a dash of politics, as this is all offered by a lesbian choreographer and all-female dance company. Talk about flavors!

The trick to fusion food is taking unusual combinations and creating something new and delicious. Same thing in dance: the hope is that one synthesizes into work that is new and surprising. Togawa has assembled the elements, including dancers who bring dance experience from Asian, South American, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander and African heritage, but never manage to build a fusion that satisfies.

Togawa is celebrating her 10th anniversary as director of Purple Moon, and she has garnered an audience of enthusiastic supporters, who attended performances at the Cowell Theatre last weekend. Politically speaking, it was great to see Asian-American women doing African movement, and African-American women doing the hula. It was satisfying to see representation of diversity in shape as well as cultures, ages and

dance backgrounds. Purple Moon presented the percussion group LOUD, members from lesbian choral ensemble Voices, and percussionist Afia Walking Tree. The musical collaborations were great, but the dances were supposed to be the soul of the event, and they were like diet cookies: bland, sweet, and eventually cloying. Togawa has a knack for building community, but a limited ability to create movement vocabulary that goes beyond borrowing.

Ruth St. Denis made a whole career out of exotic, arm-gesturing dances, back in vaudeville days. Togawa offers something like that: soft and expressive arms, and not much dancing. Her movement vocabulary is all girlie moves, multi-culti-style, with African squat and Balinese foot touches, Hawaiian hip sway and hula arms, and a little modern run and leap. If she were presenting any one of these styles, complete with traditional costuming and music, there would be the satisfaction of observing classical forms and ancient tradition. But her attempt to assemble bits and pieces, then present them with modern costuming and New Age music adds up to a kind of neutral assimilation — white bread, if you will.

Light play

Compared to some of the other dyke-run dance groups in town, Purple Moon is ultra-femme. There was not one iota of butch energy in the steps. Only the musicians offered heft, with the taiko drummers banging away

joyfully while the dancers made light, pretty, rhythmic unison. Sexuality was represented by an undulating hand brushing over the shoulder of another dancer, or arms gesturing an underline of breasts. One couple snored together in bed, but they were wearing layers of clothing and never managed to suggest that they might ever make love together. It was Disneyfied lesbianism, family fare. There was none of the juicy tongue-and-groove you might expect, no frontal, get-down dancing or strong-womyn partnering.

The image of floating lanterns on stage, suggesting the Japanese tradition of *O-bon*, a festival of the dead, was introduced and then squandered. In *Floating Lanterns*, the lamps were set on the stage, and dancers circled around an altar while slides showed snapshots that were presumably deceased friends, relatives and pets. Floating lanterns lost the stage to dead cats. Only at the end of the piece were the lanterns allowed to float. The exit was the most memorable part of the dance.

In *Return*, Arisika Razak performed to music from Sweet Honey and the Rock and poetry by Sonia Sanchez, while slides showed rugged old woman hands, black farm laborers, and the like. The dance was like a heartfelt pantomime. Togawa relies on slide shows and dancers who might register as women, but have limited ability to shoot emotion



Purple Moon Dance Project founder Jill Togawa

through their bodies in a way that communicates clearly to an audience. There is a difference between acting and dancing.

Sharon Page Ritchie, on the other hand, is a wonderful specimen of woman who lets it rip in her plus-size body. *Coming to this Place* was a duet for Ritchie and Togawa, and Ritchie, a belly

dancer, used some of her incredible suppleness and ability to ripple through her midsection, and brought a jolt of sensuality to a piece with squalling saxophones. Unfortunately, in side-by-side dancing, Ritchie wanted to go for it, and Togawa only knew how to be herself. Sometimes, in the theatre, that's not enough. ▼

Lily Tomlin

◀ previous page

cover of *Time* in 1977 thanks to her work, she was offered the cover two years before if she would come out for a gay cover story. "I was so insulted," she said, "that they thought I would trade my private life to get on the cover of *Time*."

Twenty years later, Tomlin was supposedly involved in another trade, this one involving writer Armistead Maupin and *The Celluloid Closet*. She had helped San Francisco filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman raise money for the documentary about Hollywood's treatment of homosexuality, but she demurred when she was asked to narrate it.

"I said to Rob and Jeffrey, who I adore, that they should not have me narrate this movie because there's going to be a big to-do in the community about it. People are not going to be satisfied that I'm not enough to narrate the film. Well, Armistead had been after me for years in snide, nasty little comments, and when he wrote [the screenplay for] *Celluloid Closet*, he said that I committed to him that I would come out. I never said anything like that."

Tomlin has never wanted to politicize her personal life, and she wants to keep her work separate from it. "My work certainly has relevance," she said, "but I never want to be self-referential. I want it to be a little larger than that."

Tomlin said her goal when she performs *Search* is to feel the same thing that she hopes audiences are feeling. "If you've ever been in a theater and have had that experi-



Lily wants goosebumps.

ence where you opened up in a certain kind of way and you are made whole with the rest of the people in the audience, that's what makes this play so brilliant," Tomlin said. "Maybe I'm sounding too high-falutin' here, but I get an incredible exhilaration from doing the show. I want to get goosebumps, too." ▼

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe runs through Oct. 28 at Theatre on the Square. Tickets are \$35-\$50. Call 433-9500.



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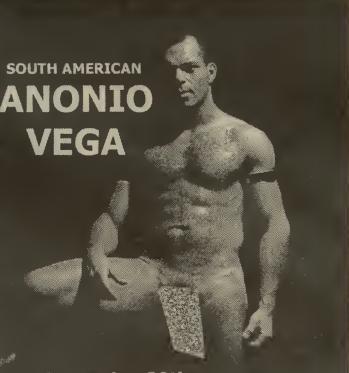
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Space girls are easy

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Talk about season debuts! Two weeks ago, *20/20* ended their summer season with the Gary Condit (yawn) interview, where Connie Chung beat the proverbial dead horse for a half-hour to get the highest ratings share all summer. Last week, *20/20* opened its fall season with a Barbara Walters diva interview of Anne Heche. The (bi)polar opposite of the Condit interview, the Heche discourse was almost too interesting.

Anne looks exceptionally sleekly, prettily glam. The new, longer hair is very sexy. The girl is certainly fetching and a great actress. But the title of her new autobiography, *Call Me Crazy*, seems all too apt, given the details Walters elicited. Heche revealed details of her creepy, abusive childhood, which included sexual abuse, religious extremism and homelessness. She told of channeling God through her alternate personality, Celeste (replete with her own language), and traveling in the fourth dimension. She discussed her long-term relationships with writer/comedian Steve Martin and, of course, Ellen DeGeneres.

For those who thought Heche would do Ellen for the nasty dump job Ellen did on her last summer (which led to Anne's Ecstasy-inspired tour of the California desert in her underwear and an overnight stay in the hospital for a minor mental break), Heche said nothing negative. In fact, she lauded Ellen's sexual prowess and said only kind things about their three years together. Pain still accompanied her memories of their relationship, that was quite apparent. When Walters asked if she and Ellen were still friends, Heche tightened up and said no, they had no contact. Walters didn't push it.

Now "divorced" from Ellen (they considered themselves married), Heche married her cameraman last weekend and is three months pregnant, but asserts she is finally grounded. As for her sexuality, she told Walters she finds the label bisexual a cop out, but doesn't consider herself either straight or gay.

Heche's family (her father died of AIDS in 1983) refused to be interviewed by Walters, but put their digital video responses on the Internet. *Good Morning America* ran some clips of those responses from Heche's mother and two sisters the morning after the interview. Anyone disbelieving Heche's tale of abuse and familial dysfunction need only have listened to the Joan Crawford iciness of her mother and the mean-spiritedness of her sisters to catch a glimpse of why Heche spent so many years in therapy.

Video drone

Speaking of freak shows, it is a real shame that Michael Jackson is such a freakazoid, because as the MTV awards show proved last week, the King of Pop is still, at 43, incredibly talented and one of the signature acts of rock 'n' roll. It was fab to see Jacko as the dance machine he's always been. It made Britney and her albino python dance look utterly lame and very Yma Sumac.

And can we just reiterate how very dreamy U2's Bono is? The guy just oozes rough-trade sex appeal with his amazing voice and bad boy good looks.

Anyons doubting that boots are so in, girl, need only have looked at anyone delicious at the awards, like J-Lo in her over-the-knee patent specials. Yummy. Worst look of the night? Macy Gray (we are so over her anyway) in her dress printed like a billboard ad for her new album. Ick.

Finally, we still love Pamela Lee, but what is she doing with Kid Rock? Doesn't she know a one-hit wonder when she sees one? Or was he the next worst thing to Tommy she could find?

Meanwhile, the new season has the reality show up first. CBS has the reality thing down. *The Amazing Race* is terrific — sucks you right in, just like *Survivor*, and has two queer couples among its players who are ahead of the game so far. NBC's *Lost* has the same premise (travel around the world in teams, and whoever gets where they are going first wins), but is over-stuffed with detail, has lousy editing and unlikable players.

NBC still rates highest for drama series. And they have *Will & Grace*. ABC has the talk thing sewn up with Walters, the *Downtown crew*, *Nightline*, *Oprah* and *GMA*. CBS and NBC just can't compete.

ABC's Monday Night Football

looks more like a chain gang than ever. Speaking of sports, tennis has been thrilling us for weeks. But is there a more boring sports icon on the planet than Tiger Woods? At least he's finally changed his shirt.

Speaking of prodigies, the Danny Almonte Little League scandal really blew us away. Wasn't the fact that the kid is six feet tall a possible clue that he wasn't 12? This whole debacle was icky from start to finish. Pillory the adults who manipulated the kid, especially Almonte's parents, who repeatedly lied to everyone about his age, waving fake baptismal certificates in the air and screaming at reporters that they know how old their child is. Of course they know — he's just not the age they claimed. Spank the kid for not saying to someone, "Hey, wasn't I 12 a few years ago, before I sprouted pubic hair, and my voice dropped three octaves? And how come I'm not going to school?" What should have been a real American success story — the scrappy kids from the Bronx making it to the finals — instead became a creepy, larcenous tale of avaricious adults taking advantage of a truly talented kid. Ick, ick, ick.

Favorite sports story of the week: Chess is being added to the Olympics. Winter or summer? Perhaps if one has to ask this question, it's a good clue that chess is not a sport! We accepted synchronized swimming — that takes real athleticism, not to mention a fiendish devotion to Esther Williams. But if you thought golf was boring, try watching a chess match. Chess isn't even that interesting when one is playing the game. And while we certainly appreciate the concept of adding a cerebral game for those who, ahem, never made varsity except in the parking lot, this is simply silly. Chess has its place, but Olympic material it is not. What's next? Scrabble? Or just watching paint dry?

Florida bites

Favorite political story of the week: Janet Reno running for Governor of Florida. The upcoming bloodbath between her and Jeb Bush will add even more bite to the state that brought us the summer of 'gator and shark attacks. Of course, what we'd really



Lavender Tube salutes Lucy Lawless, the warrior princess for all time.

like to see after Reno bitch-slaps Jeb is for her to take a nice swing at Katherine Harris, the henchwoman who hijacked the election for Bush.

Speaking of Bush (oh, do we have to?), we really like his wooring of Mexico. Does he understand it's a separate country and not just a state that voted for him instead of Al Gore? Didn't his handlers explain to him that Republicans don't want more Mexicans in the US? Maybe this is the real reason Jesse Helms and Phil Gramm are leaving the Senate. (Not that we care *why*.)

Finally, unlike our closest friends, we never were fixated on *Xena, Lesbian Princess*, but we have always adored her portrayer, former Sydney opera singer Lucy Lawless. Ever a fetching guest and perennial good sport on talk shows during the 6-year tenure of *Xena*, the svelte six-foot Lawless has done everything from horse tricks on *Leno* (where she broke her back in a freak accident) to

wearing a Catholic schoolgirl uniform and yodeling on *Conan*, to singing *a cappella* on *Letterman*.

As many a dyke devotee knows, *Xena* has reached the swashbuckling end of her sword; the series is *finite*. Lawless appeared on *Conan* last Friday touting *Xena's* swan song. Sitting next to guest Jon Lovitz, who playfully stroked her arm, Lawless sported a brown "pleather" mini-dress cut nearly to her navel, fishnet stockings, and black patent-leather boots. Around her neck, a leather leash. Sigh.

Conan pushed her to spill the secrets of the final episode — does *Xena* live or die? Lawless refused to reveal that detail, but did say *Xena*, who has always been an obvious butch top, comes out. "I never really had a doubt..." Lawless trailed off. Lovitz nudged her and said, "Oh, stop beating around the bush."

It was a moment.

Yes, we'll miss the warrior princess. But we'll miss the spirited Lucy Lawless even more. ▼

Together

◀ Arts cover

run into?

A very liquid setting, that's what. A cracked-up Eden where people switch their sexual persuasions faster than Anne Heche on Ecstasy.

So why is a man married to a woman named Coco making these types of insightful, gay-packed films?

"Thanks for the compliment," Moodysson replied in the huge lobby of the Soho Grand in New York City. "You know it's always been strange to me that straight people are so interested in being around straight people. I mean, straight men around straight men only. All that I'm drinking beer and going fishing, and stuff like that. It feels like it's code. Everything about the sports culture feels a bit like it's hidden homosexuality. In my case, I was much more interested in being with girls and women than with boys and



A cracked-up Eden: Lukas Moodysson's *Together*

men, I think."

Sipping his coffee, this son of a librarian and an engineer continued on the same track. "I think

the biggest expert on women would be straight men, but many straight men seem not to be real

next page ▶

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Cursed and closeted

by Robert Julian

Dancing with Demons: The Authorized Biography of Dusty Springfield by Penny Valentine and Vicki Wickham; St. Martin's, \$24.95

Dusty Springfield was nuts. The English pop icon of the late '60s was so unstable and erratic in her personal and professional life that she drove away almost everyone close to her. Diagnosed as manic depressive, Springfield was also a closeted lesbian for her entire adult life. Just how nuts was Dusty Springfield? It's easiest to make a list.

1. For most of her adult life, she was a stoned alcoholic and drug addict, addicted to a variety of prescription pills and Quaaludes.

2. It took 10 years in Alcoholics Anonymous before she dried out.

3. She constantly trashed her own home, hotel rooms, and the homes of friends because of her irresistible urge to have food fights (a lifelong passion) and throw china and crockery against

the wall.

4. She was so insecure she would sometimes fail to show up for her own concerts, recording dates, or social engagements.

5. She frequently suffered from the psychosomatic loss of her singing voice.

6. She was a self-mutilator, cutting her own arms and legs with knives or razor blades on regular basis.

7. She had innumerable admissions to psychiatric wards in England and the United States — and she loved being an inpatient in these facilities.

A friend of mine in the entertainment business once opined,

"There's always a reason when talented people don't get work in the industry." The reasons above, provided by the authors of *Dancing with Demons*, finally clarify why a woman universally acclaimed as a great vocalist and trendsetter in "blue-eyed soul" never had the career most people anticipated.

In-flight meals

Born in 1939, Mary O'Brien was the second child of British parents who "had issues." Her

mother was charming, outgoing and vivacious, and her father was quiet, sullen and introspective. Her older brother was the center of her parents' attentions, and Mary was basically ignored. It was a disturbed household, where screaming matches and flying food became part of the normal household routine. But Mary's musically gifted father passed on a sophisticated understanding of music to his young daughter.

After limited success in small groups, Mary O'Brien took the name Dusty Springfield and worked her way into the mod British television variety show *Ready, Steady, Go!* A recording contract soon followed, and Springfield's smooth and soulful vocals helped score hit records in the mid-'60s, leading to friendships with the Beatles and other pioneers of the British musical revolution. Having exhausted the potential of her career in the United Kingdom, Springfield relocated to Los Angeles in 1972 and quickly began a long slide into obscurity and addiction. Springfield's successful 1987 comeback with the Pet Shop Boys



Penny Valentine and Vicki Wickham

("What Have I Done to Deserve This") is the only bright spot in her later years.

As longtime friends and professional associates of Springfield, the authors of *Dancing with Demons* have access to the inside story of her life. And certainly in respect to her lesbianism, they are forthright and honest. However, Valentine and Wickham's portrait of their late friend (Springfield died of cancer in 1999) seems overly generous in its willingness to excuse insufferable behavior and personal flakiness. Yet their personal history with their subject

also provides some amazing anecdotes. None is more hilarious than the story of Springfield and a drunken friend pouring the inebriated and unconscious Mama Cass Elliot out of the back seat of their car and into a wheelbarrow before rolling Elliot to her own front door.

Dusty Springfield's life was a tragic one, and it was the tragedy of a woman consumed by her own demons. The authors remark that Springfield wanted to be black, heterosexual, and a good Catholic — but she was none of these things. The disasters that came her way were calamities of her own creation. Springfield refused to submit to regular psychiatric care or take medications that might control her behavior. *Dancing with Demons* moves, in fits and starts, over Springfield's long career. And although there are gaps in the narrative, it's fairly clear what is missing would only be variations on a theme already clearly orchestrated. This new biography of Dusty Springfield is a valuable addition to the history of contemporary popular music of the late 20th century. ▼

Anger management

by James Piechota

Fury by Salman Rushdie; Random House, \$24.95

The feral, guilty streets of New York City have been the perfect punching bag for many types of literary and television characters for years, and these mean streets have seen a lot. From desperately unattached women and men, to some downright charming mobsters and trendy sex columnists clomping down the halls of HBO, they all seem to love the big sweaty city as a place to tell their scattered friends about, but hate what it truly does to them. All of these big metropolitan types appear impossibly defenseless against Manhattan's vicious grasp, yet we are just as helpless in our compulsive voyeurism. It's just more fun to watch or read about someone else wrestle with the Naked City while we're nestled safely at home, somewhere far, far away.

Who's next in line to get swallowed up by the Big Apple? Well, there's Salman Rushdie, whose latest book is slender by Rushdie standards, but chock full of the gritty stuff fans will be trawling for. *Fury* slaps us with close to 300 wildly hilarious, resentful, unrestrained, plot-thin pages though it barely manages to spill its base narrative about a man at the mercy of some last-minute, life-altering decisions.

The story is a swift and witty one about an aging, wealthy professor/dollmaker named Malik Solanka who, at 55, has clearly seen better days. There was a time when he was happily content, living in London with his wife Eleanor and their young son. Then it was on to the wild commercial success of "Little Brain," the doll he invented. That is, until the night when he held a knife over the sleeping bodies of his family, his mind enraged with resentment. But instead of committing manslaughter, he flies to New York City, where he succumbs to

the highway robbery of an \$8,000-a-month Upper West Side sublet.

Generally pissed off at life, Solanka has become just another enraged madman trudging around Manhattan, the furies ("sexual, Oedipal, political, magical, brutal") in his head having turned him into a compulsory extremist. He suffers from furious spasms of boiling anger when, for example, he's held hostage to someone's loud cell phone conversation: "Another stranger's fairy tale of the city poured into his defenseless ear."

The mayhem mounts as the evening news reports that an elusive killer is stalking the New York City streets, whacking supermodels over the head with a slab of

concrete.

Solanka is endlessly anxious, but still manages to befriend several odd secondary characters, like his beautiful mistress Mila Milo, Polish housecleaner Wislawa, and suicidal buddy Rhinehart.

The real fun is to witness the frenzied wizardry going on just behind the literary curtain, because what makes up the rest of the novel is pure city-hating, misanthropic, cynical rant.

These brief, potent remarks touch on everything from "George Gush and Al Bore" and Eilan Gonzales to the "so-so" material of Ellen DeGeneres and the sandcastle-like foundations of today's marriages. Snippets such as they are prove wry in the



telling, but also carry gravitas. At times, some of these observations come across as overly undignified: the "look of perfect Hispanic incomprehension" Solanka receives

while ordering dessert from a bakery case forces him to point to what he wants instead.

Astute readers will discover a precious epiphany buried in *Fury* when a retrospective, lonely Solanka silently prays, "Eat me, America, and give me peace," hoping to defuse the powder keg of "anger, fear and pain" he carries. But it's all too clear that prayers and promises aren't going to bring Rushdie's sapped protagonist any solace; some folks are just too far gone. "Life separates us with its apparently casual happenstance," Rushdie writes, "and when one day we shake our heads as if waking from a reverie, our friends have become strangers and can't be retrieved." ▼

Together

◀ previous page

ly interested in women, except for a couple of hours. Truly, that's a bit strange. As for me, I've had quite a few really close relationships with women in my life, so I guess I'm more interested in women.

"That's stupid to say such a thing," Moodysson interrupted himself, "because I'm interested in men as well. What they're thinking and doing and everything. But maybe in one way I'm more interested in women than men. I'm generalizing extremely, but I do think it's quite easy for me to find the alter egos of women. For example, I feel really close personally to the girls in *Show Me Love*. I really feel close."

Difficult cut

The one gay male character in *Together*, who sports a Marianne Faithfull hairdo, pines for the aforementioned uncut straight hunk, constantly arguing the merits of male-on-male love to him. Sadly, not all of the scenes shot about the two's wooing made it to the final product. "Well," Moodysson explained, "we had this really quite extreme

scene in the film that we actually shot but took away, not because of the nudity, but because the film was very difficult to edit. We took away almost an hour because there were so many storylines going in so many different directions, so originally there was a bit more material about the sort of gay couple. There was one scene where they had just had sex, and the straight guy was very realistically washing his penis. That was difficult to make. The actor had to drink a bit of brandy before that scene."

Will we see it on the DVD? "I don't think so," Moodysson laughed.

Is there homophobia in Sweden, making this a brave film to produce? *Together* was a gigantic box-office success over there.

"As in many Western countries, it's politically correct to be sort of gay-friendly, but many people, when it comes close to themselves, would not be happy with their children having a partner of the same sex."

"You know, after screenings of my films in Sweden, people talk and discuss and even shout at each other. Sometimes even during the screening of the films. I know, for example, when *Fucking Amal* was shown, people were ac-

tually having discussions in the theaters. I mean, there were people standing up and screaming, 'You fucking homo!' and so on when the two girls were kissing in the car. There were also people who were shouting them down. I think that quite a lot. Why? Because although I don't think if you're

totally homophobic you can change by watching a film, you certainly can't change completely, but you can change like 5% or something like that. And that's a start." ▼

Together opens Friday.

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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Cheyenne Wright of the Prescott Clown Troupe, part of "In The Street"

In the Street!

What's not to like about 70 weird, wacky, wonderful artists taking over a block-long stretch of asphalt in the Tenderloin and turning it into a free-for-all performance space? I'm referring to the 7th annual "In the Street" theater festival, an event involving so many stars of the local dance, theater, hip hop, DJ, jazz, capoiera, taiko and other performance-art/music/martial-arts scenes, I can't possibly do them all justice individually.

First things first: The event kicks off Friday, September 14, from 5 to 11 p.m. at the Afro-American and Cultural complex at 762 Fulton St., between Webster and Buchanan. It then shifts to the 500 block of Ellis St. (between Leavenworth and Hyde) for two full days of revelry, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16.

The whole shebang is presented by the Luggage Store/509 Cultural Center, a way to enliven the Tenderloin by making professional theater and art accessible to a broad range of people. Says festival co-founder Darryl Smith: the performances "celebrate the creation of community through the transformative power of art and performance."

The Friday kick-off event in the features hip-hop poet Will Power performing excerpts from his one-man show, *The Gathering*, a theatrical journey to the meeting places of Black men. Also involved are Rhodessa Jones and her ensemble, The Medea Project, Shabaka (aka Barry Henley), Johanna Haigood and dancers, and musician Walter Kitundu saluting the bygone days of the Fillmore as the city's premiere entertainment district. Zion I will shake the crowd up with hip hop.

Saturday on Ellis St. is pure dope. Among many other wonders, you've got fabulous dancer/choreographer Keith Hennessey, the Kim Epifano Dance Company, the Chitresh Das Dance Company, the Krissy Keefer Dance Brigade, the Carnival of Chaos, and ONSITE Dance Co. If that doesn't make you want to dance, nothing will.

Sunday continues the performance high with The Living Word Project, Herstory Crew, the Harupin-Ha Butoh Dance Company, skateboard riders from Real and Antihero, Jenny Metzner (aka Spygirl), Sini Anderson, the Mystic Family circus, Madame Ovary, Soonyana the Snake Dancer, Shabazz (formerly the Ali Khan Band), and lots of installations.

It's going to be a blast, and it's so close to the Central YMCA, you can bet it will be filled with performance-art lovers fresh from frisking in the steam room. ▼

Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers present *Tears of Rock at Dance* Mission Theater. See Thursday.



where he is a Lecturer in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info/tix: 554-0402.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Panopticons of Desire and Control," a film/video program featuring the SF premiere of Harun Farocki's "I Thought I Was Seeing Convicts," a half-hour visual essay on the technological monitoring of prisoners in the California penal system. Plus: Miranda July's "The Amateurist," Geoff Johnston's "Ernie Zimmer," and the provocative work of NYC's "Surveillance Camera Players" — all focus on surveillance technology in disciplinary and criminal applications. Also: films demonstrating the "flipside" of the gaze, examining the voyeuristic impulses that drive the act of looking/peeping. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Gershwin Theatre

The SF Shakespeare Festival presents King Lear, starring Ray Reinhardt, beloved for his leading roles during the heyday of ACT's repertory company, and acclaimed for his acting in ACT's Cyrano de Bergerac, Berkeley Rep's Long Day's Journey Into Night, and San Jose Rep's Death of a Salesman. Directed by Paul Barry, the only American to direct the entire Shakespeare canon — 72 professional productions — including all 38 plays. \$26 & \$34 (20% discount for members; \$3 off for seniors/students). Thru Oct. 7. Ira & Leonore S. Gershwin Theatre, 2350 Turk Blvd. Info/tix: 392-4400; www.tix.com; www.sfsshakes.org.

GLBT Historical Society; Hormel Center, SF Main Library

Exhibition at two sites: "The Power of Broken Hearts. MEGAHOOD ... The Origin and Evolution of the Folsom Street Fair, Celebration and South-of-Market Community Empowerment in the Age of AIDS." On view during normal Main Library visiting hours and at the GLBT Historical Society Gallery Space, 973 Market St., Suite 400, Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

First Voice presents "Guiding Spirits: ghost festival I," a program of music and legend inspired by ancestors, featuring Hawaiian treasure slack key guitarist Keola Beamer; Taiko master Kenny Endo; storyteller Brenda Wong Aoki; and jazz composer

Fri
14

Unitarian Universalist Center

"Jenni's Big Tranny Party!" Come help Jenni celebrate her 25th! All Bay Area TGs and their significant others invited (no unaccompanied non-trans, please). Free. 6:30pm. MLK Room, UUC, 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary Blvd.). Info: (415) 340-8861.

Dance Mission Theatre

Dance Brigade and Dance Mission Theatre present LAVA, a troupe of intrepid women whose movement vocabulary is informed by strength, agility, circus acrobatics, the aggressiveness and ferocity of wrestling and foot-ball, and the ease and familiarity of social dancing. Featuring excerpts from "Timberline" — a work inspired by the starkness and harsh conditions of high altitude terrain, with tenuous perches, close calls, and breath-taking endurance. One show only. \$13. 8pm. 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Info/tix: 826-4401.

Theater Artaud

"The Swan Tool," a multi-media performance by video artist Miranda July with original live score by Zac Love. The world July has created is groundbreaking in its use of digital/human interactivity and its reinvention of space. The piece tells the story of a woman working in an insurance company, Lisa, who cannot decide whether to live or die. She digs a hole in her backyard and buries her-

self. 8pm. Also on Sept. 15. 499 Alabama St. Tix/info: 621-7797; www.mirandajuly.com.

Peace Plaza, Japantown

Theatre of Yugen presents "Crazy Horse," a Native American and Japanese Noh Theater production lit by torch light. Featuring Kanzan-lineage Noh master Masashi Nomura as Crazy Horse, maverick Noh musician Shono-ku Okura on hip drum, Richard Emmert from Tokyo on Noh flute, and the choreography of Hanay Geigaman, a Kiowa. Commissioned by the US-Japan 21st Century Project. Free. 8pm. Also on Sept. 15 at 2pm & 8pm. Info: 621-7797; www.theatreofyugen.org

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

In concert: Karen Williams, the Queen of Improv, legendary in the feminist/progressive community for saying the unsayable and making you laugh anyway. She's smart, lightening fast, irreverent, and adorable. \$20 adv.; \$23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Info/tix: (510) 339-1832.

Alcazar Theatre

Preview: "Lyspinka! The Boxed Set," a solo diva performance by John Epperson as Lyspinka, who has performed to great acclaim worldwide. \$25-\$30 previews; \$28.50-\$45 during run. 8pm Tues.-Fri.; 5:30 & 8pm Sat.; 7pm Sun. Opening night: Sept 25. 650 Geary St. Tix/info: 441-4042; www.lyspink.com

Sat
15

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

The JSC presents "Falling in Love and the Movies," a lecture/presentation with scholar Daniel Contreras. He argues that the experience of falling in love (like the realm of the movies where anything is possible) comes from a utopian impulse that can be a crucial political tool for change. Contreras holds a Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University,

Ray Reinhardt plays in the SF Shakespeare Festival's King Lear at Gershwin Theatre. See Saturday.



Mark Izu. \$19 adv.; \$23 door (\$15 seniors/students). 2pm & 8pm; also on Sun., Sept. 16, 2pm. YBCA Theatre. Info/tix: 978-2787; www.firstvoice.org

Yerba Buena Gardens

The Multi-Cultural Music Fellowship presents the "12th Annual Festival of Harps," featuring Rudiger Oppermann on Celtic and African harps, Park Stickney on jazz harp, and the world-fusion group Beasts of Paradise with Barbara Imhoff on pedal harp, plus Eda Maxim, vocals; Stephen Kent, didgeridoo; Geoffrey Gordon, percussion; and Diana Trimball, guest vocalist. Bring blanket, picnic dinner, and friends. Free. 7:30pm. at Mission & 3rd. Info: (510) 548-3326; www.california.com/~mcmf/fiharps.html

Unitarian Universalist Center

Joel Koosed presents "The Meeting Game" Salon — 100 Men in One Night?" Meet 50-100 gay and bisexual men, a few at a time, in an evening of short group conversations and ice-breakers. Dressy casual attire suggested (look good — be comfortable). \$20 adv.; \$25 door. Tix/info: (415) 435-8655; (510) 525-6207; Meet-ingGame.com

Elbo Room

Bandleader Carlos Washington and Giant People demonstrate why they're key innovators in the Epic Soul Music movement. They deliver a fresh mix of jazz loaded with classical elements, combined with funk, soul, and R&B, with traces of techno and hip-hop. Plus lively vibes by DJ Motion Potion. The Mission District's Elbo Room is a long-thriving performance space for emerging and renowned musicians and DJs who groove on funk, soul, and rock 'n' roll. The crowd is mostly straight these days, but always gay friendly. \$7. 10pm. 647 Valencia St. Info: 717-7577; www.sunsetpromotions.net

Sun
16

Marines Memorial Club

Jazz vocalist Wesla Whitfield performs in support of Diablo Valley AIDS Center, a non-profit organization serving clients in Contra Costa County since 1988. With reception, silent auction, elegant dinner, and performance by Ms. Whitfield and her accompanist/husband, Mike Greensill. Whitfield has performed at Carnegie Hall, the White House, and the London Palladium, and is a regular headliner at the Algonquin in New York and the Plush Room in SF. \$125. 4:30pm cocktails/silent auction; 6pm dinner, followed by show. 609 Sutter St. Tix/info: (925) 686-3816; www.dvac.org

Justice League

Erika Shuch Performance (ESP) Project presents *intoto*, an evening of collective art. Twenty-two visual artists have donated works for a silent art auction benefiting the ESP Project. Music by DJ Zeph, Stink 69, Amon E, and The Management. \$10-\$35 sliding. 8pm. 628 Divisadero. Info: 289-2038.

Unitarian Universalist Center

The G 40 Plus Club presents "CUAV: Working Against Violence," with the program director of Community United Against Violence. G 40 Plus Club is a social organization of GLBT seniors and their admirers. Free. 2:30pm. 1187

Franklin St. (at Geary). Info: 552-1997.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Mt. Tam East Side Ascent. Enjoy sweeping views of the entire Bay Area amidst pines, Madrone and manzanita. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with an 800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 10am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores in SF or at the North Berkeley BART station. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Speedway Meadows, Golden Gate Park

"The 6th Annual Doggone Fun Run," a 5k pledge run/walk with dogs to benefit PAWS, Pets Are Wonderful Support, whose mission is to help people living with AIDS and other terminal illnesses to maintain the comfort and friendship of their pet companions. With musical entertainment by bluegrass band Jimbo Trout, a post-run dog/human look-alike contest, a Lucky Dog Shoe Chew, and "Doggy Digs — You Dine," sponsored by local restaurants. 9am-noon. Info/registration: PAWS, 241-1460; www.pawssf.org.

Mon 17

848 Community Space

"QComedy Showcase" — Monday Night Gay Comedy, with this week's guest host, Chantal, plus John Doyle, George Simmons, Jeremy Beth Michaels, Chris Duffy, Amma, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info: 541-5610; www.Qcomedy.com

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Kent Nagano, performs works by Ludwig van Beethoven (*Carillon Overture*), Richard Felciano (*Camp Songs*, based on the WWII internment of Japanese Americans), Franz Schubert (*Symphony No. 6*), Régis Campo (*Lumen* world premiere), and Daniel Brewbaker (*Piano Concerto No. 2*, *To Kalon*, world premiere, w/Jerry Kuderna, piano). 8pm. Also on Sept. 24, \$21, \$32, & \$45 (season tix: \$75, \$115, & \$165). Tix/info: (510) 841-2800; www.berkeleysymphony.org

Tue 18

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Kent Nagano, performs works by Schubert (*Symphony No. 3*), Arnold Schoenberg (*Piano Concerto*, w/Mari Kodama, piano), Ichiro Nodira (*Kodama* world premiere, w/Mari & Momo Kodama, pianos), and Gustav Mahler (songs from *Ruckertlieder* and *Wunderhornlieder*, w/Dietrich Henschel, baritone). 8pm. \$21-\$45. Tix/info: (510) 841-2800; www.berkeleysymphony.org

Dolores Street Baptist Church

Heartstrong, Inc., a non-sectarian outreach organization for GLBT people and their families, presents an educational evening with internationally recognized gay-rights activists Marc Adams and Todd Tuttle. Their goal, as they've driven cross-country, is to make information accessible to GLBT students who are attending religious edu-



Carlos Washington and Giant People bring their Epic Soul Music to the Elbo Room. See Saturday.

tional institutions. The pair also attempt to educate the general public about what happens in such schools to a student discovered or suspected of being gay. Every religious school, college or university that does not allow GLBT students to fully express themselves emotionally, spiritually, romantically and socially is targeted for outreach. Free (donations appreciated). 7pm. Corner of Clipper and Sanchez in Noe Valley. Info: Ross Hayduk, or interim pastor Rick Mixon, 826-2641.

Intersection for the Arts

Fall 2001 Literary Series presents "Press Spotlight: Momotombo Press," readings from the five contributors to *Mark My Words: Five Emerging Poets*, featuring Lisa Sperber, Sean McDonald, Angela Garcia, Eric Gudas, and Maria Melendez. Momotombo Press was founded by Francisco Aragon with the goal of bringing to light the work of up-and-coming poets. \$5 suggested. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info: 626-2787.

Wed 19

The Randall Museum

Artist's Reception: Sculptor Elizabeth Berrien will be on hand for a special evening exhibition of her "Wire Zoo," the museum's current art installation, consisting of magnificent wire animals. Enjoy an evening of wild, wacky fun. Free. 6-8pm. 199 Museum



Storyteller Brenda Wong Aoki takes part in *Guiding Spirits: ghost festival I* at Yerba Buena Center. See Saturday.

Dance Mission Theater
AB&D Productions presents "Tears of Rock" by Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers in

Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Reservations (appreciated but not required): 554-9608.

Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra presents Handel's *Aci, Galatea*. Music Director Nicholas McGegan conducts this tale of eternal love and supernatural powers, one of the most historically important and interesting works of English music. \$34-\$49. 8pm. (Also at Herbst Theatre in SF on Fri., Sept. 21). Info/tix: (925) 943-7469 for Walnut Creek; (415) 392-4400 for SF.

Thu 20

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

"LIT @ JSC" presents "An Evening with Anne Carson," featuring one of the most exciting poets working in English today, renowned for her erudition and accessibility. Anne Carson's genre-busting books are unusual hybrids, such as her *Autobiography of Red*, a novel in verse. She is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. With reading/presentation followed by Q&A with audience, plus reception & booksigning. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 1519 Mission St. Info/tix: 554-0402.

The Pendulum
Bartender Margarita Samra and The Pendulum present "Alley Catz," the only weekly club in the Castro for women. Prowl, cruise and schmooze with an eclectic mix of women wearing everything from lace to leather. Fierce DJs spin hip-hop, funk, rap and dance hall. Cheap drinks, pool table, outdoor smoking patio. Never a cover. 6pm-2am. 4146 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: 863-4441.

collaboration with Elias Khoury, Miri Hunter Harach, Vocolet, Susanna Goldstein, Marc Ream, and Susu Pompanin. An intoxicating combination of live Arab and Israeli music forms the background for this piece, which focuses on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. \$15 adv.; \$17 door. 8pm. Also on Sept. 22-23, 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Tix: 273-4633, or Modern Times Bookstore.

ODC Theater

Bay Area choreographers Nancy Karp and Deborah Slater join forces in *Counter Balance*, a shared evening of dance. The two long-time friends, colleagues and former classmates employ radically different movement languages. Celebrating its 22nd anniversary in SF, Nancy Karp + Dancers debuts *Il Mercato*, a piece inspired by the gestures, movements and interactions in Sicilian bazaars. Set to the music of famed composer and Other Minds Festival Director Charles Amirkhanian, Slater, one of our most imaginative and provocative choreographers, explores love and loss in the bittersweet *Grace Floats*, a work created in 1988 in collaboration with Rinde Eckert. Plus the gynastic high drama of *Out of Disguise*, a dance for one woman and three chairs. \$16. 8pm. Also on Sept. 21, plus gala benefit show & reception on Sept. 22 for \$35. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Info/tix: 863-9844; tick-etweb.com; www.odcdance.org/theater

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The flag will fly!

by Mister Marcus

A big turnout packed Daddy's last Sunday, September 9, to raise money for the Leather Pride Flag, which will cost about \$1,900 to produce. Thanks to the collaboration of MUMC President Patrick Batt, Bob Brunson, Mama Reinhardt and others, the banner will fly over the Castro on Sunday, September 23, the day of the Leather Pride Walk, and for the entire Leather Pride Week. The City has officially bestowed its blessing on the event. In fact, the flag-raisers more than met their goal: the spirited gathering at Daddy's raised almost \$3,000 for Mama's pet project. Lots of the leather faithful showed up to support the effort, so to them and the whole San Francisco leather community, here's a well-deserved "Good show!" and "Bravo!"

Hordes of people are enroute to San Francisco for Leather Pride Week, so be prepared to roll out the red (or maybe black and blue) carpets and welcome them in grand leather style. Yes, it looks like another banner year for the Folsom Street Fair, which officially comes "of age" with this 18th annual celebration of our lifestyle. Aren't you glad you're going to be a big part of it?

Our tribe's pride continues to thrive in all sectors of the leather world. Consider the recent inaugural of the Ms. World Leather contest in Dallas two weekends ago. Some \$14,000 was dispensed to the winner and her favorite charity. In San Francisco, the Leather Daddy's Boy XIX contest raised a few thousand more, and last Sunday, the committee that staged the first Leather/Levi Weekend bike run to Saratoga Springs raised another \$8,700, which was distributed to 12 different deserving charities. The beer/soda bust at the Eagle this past Sunday saw the eager beneficiaries reap the rewards of leather men and women volunteers who made it all possible.

As we look ahead to the myriad events scheduled to take place here during Leather Pride Week — September 23-30 — it's a safe bet to say that hun-



SF Leather Daddy's Boy XIX Brian Stevens beams after being announced as the new holder of one of San Francisco's longest-running traditional leather titles. He won out over three other contestants.

dreds of thousands of charitable dollars more are guaranteed. Is it any wonder that leather people are proud of their generosity, support, volunteerism and success? Can you name any other sub-culture of the greater LGBT communities that have done as well or even come close to these amounts? I think not.



Bazaar

And the winners are...

The Leather Daddy's Boy XIX contest at the Eagle on Sunday, September 2, was a smashing suc-

cess. The patio was jam-packed for one of San Francisco's most popular events. Four boys competed for the title. After the winner was announced — Brian Steven — he was whisked away in a limousine and introduced at the Loading Dock, Powerhouse, Daddy's, and the Edge. The first runner-up was Dan McPherson.

Last Saturday night, September 8, in Asbury Park, New Jersey, the second annual Mr. New Jersey Leather contest was held, produced by the Promethean Guard MC. Four contestants vied for the title. When all the tallying was

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Saturday, September 15

The SF Eagle Tavern (formerly the SF Eagle Bar) celebrates its 4th anniversary beginning at 2000 hours followed by musical presentations by Gi-antic at 2000 and The Freedom Rockers.

Sunday, September 16

It's ACLC's "Beauty's Brach Blanket" benefit at the Bench & Bar in Oakland, from 1630 to 2030, with food, auction, raffle and a 50/50 drawing.

There's a Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon from 1600-2000. Your \$7 benefit for the Immune Enhancement Project.

Also, there's an Inter-Club Fund beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800, for \$8, with food and cruising galore.

The 10th (and final) SF Cheeks & Chaps Contest takes place at Daddy's at 1800, with a \$7 beer/soda bust. Mr. Belcher passes the sash to his successor.

Wednesday, September 19

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, starting at 1930. The subject: Medical Scenes, presented by a bona fide practitioner, Randi Bear. It's free!

Thursday, September 20

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, from 2000-2300, for only \$6.

Friday, September 21

"Stars of Blow Buddies," a photo show by Greg Day, opens tonight with a reception for the photographer from 1730 to 2000. The seductive artwork will be on display for a whole month.

Exiles of SF Leather Swap Meet at the Women's Bldg. Buy or sell kinky stuff. Starting time: 2000. Entry cost: \$3 members; \$6 others.

Saturday, September 22

The Inter-Club Fund Progressive Dinner starts at 1800 with soup/salad at the Powerhouse, continues with an entrée at the Eagle Tavern, and concludes with an after-dinner aperitif at the Lone Star. Tickets are \$10, available at the Powerhouse, Eagle, Lone Star, or from any SF Forum rep.

Sunday, September 23

SF Leather Pride Week kicks off with the raising of the huge Leather Pride Flag in the Castro, just before the Leather Pride Walk leaves Daddy's for the two-mile walk to SoMa stops. Sign up pledges now, and let's surpass the \$32,000 raised last year.

Bare Chest Calendar dinner-date auctions at the Eagle immediately following the Leather Pride Walk with Lenny Broberg auctioning off six hunks to benefit the AEF and Positive Resources. Be there!

PORN

Men in the mix

by John F. Karr

Michael Lucas' *Getting Around* is a flurry of ferocious guys and NYPD Blue-style roving camera overdo. Its sensational opening duo leads into an eye-popping octet which boils over into a quartet, and then distills into a trio, before focusing, in the finale, on a lover's tryst.

These scenes are most enjoyably cast by Lucas with residents of the Lower East and Upper West Sides of New York City. Lucas calls them "men with a distinct East Coast edge." Which sounds to me like the Princeton crew, WASP-puppies on Wall Street. To Lucas, it means a salisified mix, concentrating on traditionally horse-hung and mostly, but not all, uncircumcised Hispanics, mixed up with some street-bred Italians, bleach-blond punks, a skin-head, a hustler, and the occasional well-known porn star. It's a mix I like; I have no idea why filmmakers are going thousands of miles out of their way to bunt batches of boring Eastern Europeans at us, when Lucas can mine a rich vein of raw and earthy ex-

**Karrnal Knowledge**

optimism right in New York. His work reminds me of the '70s films of Arch Brown — rather coarsely made, but urgently sexual.

It's an ironic tradition of porno that the constantly overheated state of sexuality in which pornographers live and breathe seems to singe their skill as filmmakers — even though Lucas allows himself the aggrandizing opening credit, "A Film by Michael Lucas." Yeah, and I'm Kitty Carlisle. Well, there's some truth to that, as there's truth to the fact that Lucas' limitations as a filmmaker don't manage to spoil the effectiveness of his pornography.

The director's penchant for the barest minimum of dialogue and plot helps a lot. In *Getting Around*, the sex starts when we're a mere 46 seconds in, Lucas having already dispensed with the credits and all 25 words of exposition. "Just one day in New York City, and my friend Anthony's getting around."

Anthony meets his new neighbor at the gym. It's the compactly

Anthony Ferrat, Andreas Montero, and Roberto Vista are *Getting Around*

muscled and curly-haired Andreas Montero, who says "Hi," before jumping into the hot tub with Mitch Ryder. The constant whir of the pool's machinery is none too pleasant a background, but it's overridden by the sight of the men's cocks. Andreas' has that rich, nutty color and brusque upward thrust so peculiar to Latin men, while Ryder's is even longer, harder, and more thrusting up. The

camera craftily catches in profile these impressive attributes — which become scarily impressive when slipping scimitar sharp in and out of an asshole sheath. Man, can Ryder slam it home.

Passion play

Meanwhile, Anthony's stumbled upon a raging eight-man orgy. The guys may not be porn-pretty, but they're players in a major way. To me, a guy who likes to linger, the camera's restlessness seemed like that of *Moulin Rouge*, where you really wanted to see the choreography instead of the director editing it. Though god may be in these details — what an energized, horny bunch of guys these are — there are just so many damn details!

Anthony next goes to a hotel to meet some friends who have just arrived from San Francisco. In pornspeak, that means they're even hornier than the New Yorkers of the last scene. Blonde Scott Townsend is a particular standout, with his USMC-styled body and striking tattoo proclaiming in

florid script across his biceps, "Yes!" This Marine has learned his drill, too, and pounds his partner's ass until all involved work up a near-simultaneous finale that's quite exciting.

Stopping in a bar, Anthony and Andreas have a threeway with the skinheaded brute of a bartender, before Anthony's adventures in the Big City disappear from the story for the last two scenes. Lucas regular Roberto Vista unfortunately has to abort his tryst with a hairy-chested partner when his lover returns home. It's the bartender, a hunk of mesomorph musclebeef, who, with superstar Vista, provides an exciting climax to the movie. Oh, yeah — there's a five-second coda with Anthony. Although he enjoyed his first day in the city, he complains that he hasn't had time to unpack.

Sex aside, Lucas should not be offering such amateur technique in his sixth movie. Sound recording can be abrasive, editing jumpy. With scenes rarely exceeding 15 minutes, I frequently felt rushed; the cast's absorption was stopping time, but the director was shredding it. Towards the end, my copy of the video resembled a work print, plagued with strange white slashes in the edit, burps on the soundtrack, and blips of digitization in the image. Still, Lucas' knack for presenting sizzling men excuses much. I popped my butt-plug when I found out that sensational Carlos Morales was the star of Lucas' tenth film, *Vengeance* — so you know I'll be reporting on that soon. ▼

www.Lucasentertainment.com

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

done, the handsome Rob Carabelli took the sash. He has the option of competing at IML, Mid-Atlantic Leather or the American Brotherhood competition for the American Leather Man title.

Drum beats in October

The second production of International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy, under the direction of Mike Zühl, will take place the first weekend of October at the Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Drummer regional contests are history, and the winners in each district are gearing up for the main event. The judges, tally masters, entertainers and volunteers are in place and working, and the Drummer team of volunteers is already in high gear preparing for the onslaught of leather people who will

be attending. A hefty leather contingent from San Francisco will be on hand for the event.

For a complete rundown on all the contest weekend, hotel accommodations and ticket information, click on www.drummer.com, where all of your questions will be answered.

Leather Extravaganza, etc.

Glenndon Sutter and his talented committee take on yet another adventure with Leather Extravaganza coming your way on Friday, October 12th at the Atelier Gallery (2354 Market St.). The next night, October 13th, Ingu Yun (the Unsung Hero Award Winner 2001) stages his Hoe Down at the Galleria Design Center. If you attend Leather Extravaganza, your ticket to HoeDown is automatic the next night.

There will be a Mr. Hayes Valley Leather contest at Marlena's on Friday, October 19. The winner will compete for the Mr. San Francisco

Leather 2002 title next March.

The Mr. California Leatherman contest, one of the highlights of Leather Pride Week, will be taking place at Club Townsend on Saturday evening, September 28, at around 1700. The winner will represent the entire state in the American Leather Man contest during American Brotherhood weekend in Washington, D.C. the weekend of April 26-29.

Leather Pride online

So many events will be jammed into San Francisco's Leather Pride Week, (September 23-30), that space limitations preclude my listing them all here.

To find out where all the action will be, click on www.folsom-streetfair.com, then click on the Leather Week symbol on the menu. Organizers are still sending in notices of their events, making it difficult for the webmaster to keep up, but you'll still find plenty to keep you happy. ▼

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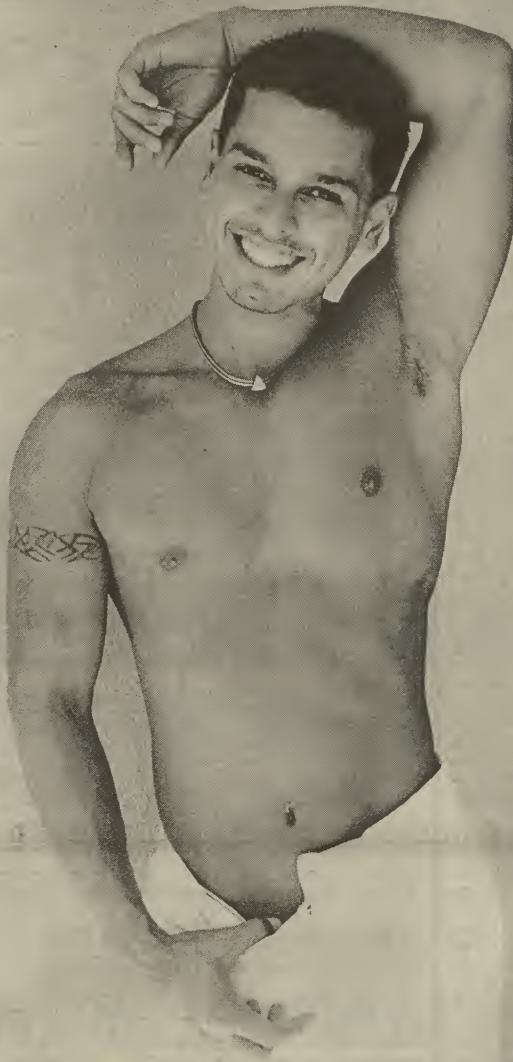
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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

Muni Early Eve 8/2 Castro Stop
Me: WM, black pullover, brown hair, earrings with tall White guy in black cap. You: BM in blue jacket. You smiled, I was shy. Coffee? Talk? Sex? Marriage? ☎ 71566

On The 35 Eureka Bus 7pm Sat 11 August Young Asian? Dressed in white mid length pants. Me older. White, in bicycle clothing seated across you. Exchanged glances. You got off at 24th street. Would like to meet you. ☎ 71567

Spikes Sunday August 5 Noonish You: tall dark with goatee. Me: tall with green glasses. We talked about your golden while, petting my collie. You were having coffee w/ friend outside. Coffee sometimes? ☎ 71568

"You Know I Was Looking At You!" I stood next to you on the F Market line Castro St. last stop! 8/11 sun afternoon. You blond hair, brown leather jacket, me a woman! Let's talk, your cult! ☎ 71582

It Only Took A Dollar Sparky's Diner- you, long sexy dreads. Me, buzz cut lots of ink. 7 o'clock happy hour you sent over \$1 beer. We exchanged numbers- I lost yours. Call me. ☎ 71597

The Caf'e Sat 8/18 9:30 Or So.. I love your long hair, hadda leave to meet my friend. I gave you my card. Dating's still a mystery. I gave you wrong impression. Still waiting: Call me. ☎ 71597

Longhaired Asian Man You picking up take out @ China Court. Me blonde w/goatee and a group. We cruised each other. Would like to see what's in those jeans! Call. ☎ 71598

Poz Loner Seeks Same Dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, black guy; bookish techie, quiet, doesn't socialize. 5'10", 180, 43, 31"waist, 44"chest, nice body. In bed: non-verbal, affectionate, seeking muscular, masculine contact. ☎ 71599

Looking For Mr. Good-Dick! Average GWM professional 50's, HIV+, smart, heart and soul, artistic, cut, smoker, frap looking for professional male 50 and older, w/heart/cock for oral servicing and Itr. ☎ 71600

Submissive Boy ISD MscI Daddy GWM, 40, very boyish looking, will worship, please & submit to very muscular daddy. Boy is 5'10", 150lbs and works out. Daddy should be 30-50 and built. ☎ 71604

Looking For BM E. Bay Italian, 5'10", 210lbs, 55, poz. Hobbies: movies, music, dining, travel. Sexually: Am mainly bottom, anything from vanilla, to nasty, to role playing. ☎ 71605

I'm Just Looking Forward To Meeting a sweet soft boy guy. Into: outdoors, nature, plants, healthy food, current movies. Who is reasonably attractive & stylish W/L/A. Me: over 40, Asian-European, attractive decent & contemporary. ☎ 71606

Tony & Joe From Portland. Can I make reservations down here for Folsom Street Street Fair? I met you here on July 28 and want to continue at Loading Dock. Call. ☎ 71617

Seek 20's Hunk For Fun 52 year old dark haired goodlooking Latin male looking for you; straight, bi plus, to be nice to. I respect your limits. ☎ 71603

Big Black Truck On Castro St. 8/28/01 you: cute guy with friend. Me: guy with friends on rainbow steps. You smiled at me. Left note on your truck. Interested in meeting? ☎ 71618

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sat July 11-15pm Van Ness & Hayes You: cute, well mannered young man small tat2, -arm, paused, said "good afternoon, Sir". Me: s&p dad-type, tan shirt, blue pants, caught off-guard, speechless, would like to meet you. ☎ 71581

Amazonian, Your Strong Silent Wake washed over me like deep ecstasy; your long legs, perfect posture, busty swimmers torso... pray be the one! Help edit my fantasies of ballroom dancing through life with you. ☎ 71602

Partner / Romance GWPM(N/S/N/D), 43-5'11"-195#, HIV+, goatee, smooth, frisky. You: hairy, good-hearted bottom. Who enjoys concerts, Muir Woods, skiing, theater, cuddling, foreign films, animals, NPR. ☎ 71601

Built For Sex You: Broad-shouldered, black hair, green tank, seen Sat. morning at Chat Cafe. Me: baseball cap, red hair, on laptop, kept glancing at you. I want to fuck you! ☎ 71619

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Need Strictly Top E/S Bay Playmate Me: Handsome Mid-age Asian Bottom, fine shape, 5'7"; You: Clean Top, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, have big cool tool eager to pump me deep. ☎ 71551

GWM Seeks GW Or Bi WM HIV ng very straight acting 46 look early 30's new to area, outgoing, down to earth, very sociable, in shape, not into the bar scene seeks same. Also very handsome. ☎ 71552

Tall Wants Short GWM 5'7", 6'4", 260 HIV- top looking for GWM bottom 40+ prefer 5'5", 5'8" but open-smoke/aroma +. Call. ☎ 71553

Oral Top Needed! For very bi curious oral wannabe bottom. Your under 40, smooth, clean shaved w/a negative gentle patient understanding, submissive, dress in drag, a huge + looking long term. ☎ 71554

Good Catch - Partner and Friend Seeking both. Me: GWM, 50, top, educated, professional, and enjoy many interests. You: GWM, 50-60, educated, bottom, and easygoing. Let's talk, have dinner, drinks, smoke a little, converse, and have good sex (maybe not all the same evening). Please be beefy, bearded, single. Sensitive/responsive nips a big plus. Pls. call ☎ 71555

-Young Cute Russian- Looking for another European, Russian or cultured American to love and be loved. I have various interests, I am healthy and sexy. You be same and no older than 40. ☎ 71565

Monogamous Muscular Asian Seeks GM, 40-55, HIV-neg, with sensible nips for exclusive mutual titplay & body worship in S.F. I'm 5'7", 150#, 40c, 30w, HIV-neg, NS, no anal. ☎ 71550

HIV+ GWM Seeking HIV+ GWM 41yo 5'10", 155 attractive healthy in shape funny romantic easy going top/versatile. Movies dancing, playing tennis, you similar 35-45 bottom/versatile proportionate, no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71569

Any Tall Guys Outthere? Looking to date? I am young looking 43 yr. old, GWM living in SF and tall guys make my day. You're 5'10" and up GWM into fun & romance. ☎ 71570

Yogi Seeks Boo Boo GWM, 5'11", 240#, smarter than the average bear. Seeks cub to share hibernation and picnic baskets. ☎ 71571

Redhead~ SWM 40, 5'10", 170, Santa Rosa native, ex-navy. Enjoys talk radio, exercise & the outdoors. Seeks female. ☎ 71572

Nylon/Spandex Lover Wanted GWM relocating to S.F. seeks friends. Am an avid movie goer, love ballet & dance and the sensuality of nylon tights, panty hose, kissing, touch & the outdoors. ☎ 71583

Seeking Senior 70 Or Older Masculine WM like long pussy eater seeks senior mentor to train me to become your on-call cock sucker to serve you at your command. ☎ 71584

Masculine Maui Muscle Man GWM seeks a husky lover, slave or boy 25-42. I'm 49 (looks younger), 5'9", 165 HIV- and hung br hair/eyes. Trustworthy and sincere. Looking to meet on Maui or in SF. ☎ 71585

Looking For A Friend Shy GWM, 58, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for a companion in the city to do things with. Enjoy movies, hiking, classical music, dining out and your interests. ☎ 71586

Male Mistress Wanted For sexy long term friendship and sweet times together. You over 45, under 5'8". Me, GWM early fifties 5'4", 125lbs. High energy with a good sense of humor. ☎ 71587

Great Catch Asian For GWM Very attractive GAM 30 slim, easy-going, friendly, boy next door type, not into the scene seeks similar masculine, goodlooking GWM/GLM 40 or under for dating, poss. LTR. ☎ 71588

Lonely Handsome 38yrs Seeking Life partner, 6 feet 180lbs in great shape. Me: fun, caring, healthy, sexy, good catch. Looking to settle down in it. Prefer beefy, furry, facial hair, sweet and caring guy. ☎ 71620

Sonoma/ Marin Petaluma writer re-entering dating world after 19 years. Libido intact. No emotional baggage. HIV+. Looking for someone over 50, N/S, who likes beagles. ☎ 71621

SF GWM 28 6'3" 200 Blond, Green Smooth, masc, top. Looking for Russian or Ukrainian boys under 30yo for possible ltr or whatever. ☎ 71622

Masculine Friendly 38yrs. Latin 5'7", 157w, athletic body versatile honest, easy going. You: versatile Asian, White, under 5'10", 40 yrs old young looking, versatile. Enthusiastic slim N/D, N/S, no bar scenes. Let's meet and see what happens. ☎ 71623

Kitchen Apron Seeks Tool Belt Masculine, 6'2", 250, dimples, handsome. East Bay man seeks call the shots kind of man, HIV- for fun romantic times, I'll cook and you drive, I'm all American. ☎ 71624

Baker ISO Hot Buns Which are sweet, spicy & sensual of a GWM, GHM, HIV- 36-50 for good times, dining out, movies, theatre & massage. Me: GWM 43, 5'9", S & P/blue. ☎ 71625

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Oral Master GWM late 40's ISO over 7" any race/age. Long, slow, deep, downtown SF, uncut a real plus. ☎ 71557

Magic Hands I give long, slow, intense erotic massages. My table, my hands, my place, your pleasure. I have the intuitive touch. Straight+, very discreet, versatile and safe, no reciprocation required. ☎ 71558

My Front On Your Back Black top man, 48 seeks a mature Hispanic man who likes it from behind. Dark skin, hair and moustache a plus. Bodybuilder bottoms also welcome if similar. ☎ 71559

Latin Men Of Age 40 Years Old Seeking older White men size unimportant. 50's, 60's early 70's ok. I love to suck your penis at your place, serious man only please!! ☎ 71560

Young European Boy For Training Is in search of a master in his 20's or 30's only for intensive training you choose. The boy is very cute, submissive, sexy and eager. ☎ 71561

Spread Your Cheeks Seeking Latino or Asian men too service. No recip. S.F. GWM bear fun and friendly. 20-40yrs. ☎ 71594

Expert Suckers Seem Scarce... But if you have that talent, can come to Oakland have no beard or goatee, this hung Black daddy will massage your throat well. No voicemail or pages #'s please. ☎ 71573

-Versatile Party N Play Pig-GWM 51 140# 5'8", 8"cut cock, tight trained ass, excellent cocksucker looking for pnp buddy. ☎ 71563

You'll Be Back I Got The Knack
Poz GWM bottom, 52, 5'10", 155# will give you a hot bj and a talented ass. You're 40-60, poz, have facial hair. Enjoy herb and aroma. ☎ 71574

ISO Parkable Cuties And/Or Sluts
Me: solid lean muscular, awesome big meat, older. You: in-shape with butt, butt & insatiable hot box. Scene: Door unlocked, you're bedon hands knees, blindfolded & ready for prolonged mounting. No romance but ongoing boinking a possibility! ☎ 71575

Piss Top Needs Guzzler
I'm 40 y.o. blond, 6-1, 170#, hairy, goatee, healthy, HIV+, top; ISO W/S btm, healthy, recycled beer drinker straight from the source; no hard drugs please. Downtown SF. Dentures A+. ☎ 71576

Strip On Daddy And Bend Over E.
Bay GWM, daddy, ISO son, 25-35. Daddy, 52, likes to spank and kiss your bare bottom. You know it! Spread 'em. ☎ 71577

Sit On Your Dick, Sir!
I'm 6'4", 190lbs, 9" cock ISO hot tops to ram my pretty ass long and hard. Versatile, safe, clean, HIV/neg. ☎ 71589

New!! Leather Bear Bottom
Late 40's 5'9", furry bear, 185#, wide range of bottom leather activity. Versatile FF (top/bottom). Want to learn and experience more. ☎ 71590

My Face Needs Hot Cum Bath
Masculine WM seeks senior WM with small group of senior friends to put together circle jerk using my face for target practice. The more the better. ☎ 71591

Bondage Partner(s) Sought By
Muscular top 5'11", 165, rd-blk, blu, moustach, 51, HIV-. Enjoy kissing, cuddling, nipples & cock n' ball play, & exploring mutual interests. Looking 4 inshape younger partner(s). N/S, N/D. ☎ 71562

Sonoma Co. Oral Bottom
Handsome muscular cocksucker needs hung stud to service to completion on regular basis. Especially like uncut, big hangers. You are HIV-. ☎ 71607

Oral Sex Buddy
Gay Asian 48, 5'8", 149lbs smooth athletic body looking for GWM 40-60 HIV- for regular oral sessions. Your place in San Francisco. ☎ 71607

GWM 28, HIV+, Sks GM, HIV+,
Top for reg. hot sex, poss. Discreet encounters. Days/evens. ☎ 71628

Shut Up And Ride
WM 36 5'10" 200lb blonde/blue muscular guy wants goodlooking men to screw or screw me. Call anytime. ☎ 71608

FF Butts
BM 5'9," 180, 39, I enjoy playing with an ass that takes fists, fingers, toys, your place anytime long sessions welcome. ☎ 71609

Big Nippled Oral Bottom
Trim & twisted 62 shaved head seeks GWM 25-55 for daytime play and torture; no smokers or cologne. ☎ 71610

Hung Bi Toned Dark Studs Only
Bi novice White guy 5'8" tall, 170lbs 32" waist, 7" 45" cut, shaved balls and ass squeaky clean totally talented and tasty. ☎ 71611

Seeking Passionate Daytime Fun
GWM, 45, 145lbs seeking trim Asian or Latino, 20-45 for passionate morning or afternoon encounters. Must love to kiss, touch, cuddle & stroke. Your place or mine! ☎ 71612

Seeking Horny Senior Citizen
If you like a hard dick in your hands this masculine WM loves slow sensual prolonged climax delayed jack-off sessions. One time or regularly. ☎ 71613

Oral Service
Masculine White man 5'10", 170#, 7'w/c, large balls, HIV negative, ddf, healthy, need regular service. ☎ 71626

Cute Boy Toy For GBM or GAM, 25-45
Me, 29, GWM, 6', 180#, br/or, fit, smooth, bottom, great kisser. You: like to get sucked, rimmed, to fuck and to cum a lot. ☎ 71627

Cute, 36, Slim, Smooth & Horny 5'7"
142 great shape, looking for a nice guy, between 25-35. Good shape and simple, for only love. ☎ 71593

Big Men
WLM, 6', 165lbs dk hr. ISO affectionate chubby men who enjoy lots of kissing, cuddling, & sensual oral pleasure. Big eaters, gainers, beer drinkers welcome. Smoking ok but not into drugs, gay scene, attitude. ☎ 71629

Horny Blk Bottom
Velvet tight ass, 6'175lbs., 8.5", smooth swimmers build, chocolate complexion. Seeking hung bigger tops for long pmp. Height, weight proportionate. ☎ 71630

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

LESBIAN

Attention Butch Lesbian Cops*
So. Ca. GWF 42 ISO about for friends/pals. I'm a civilian who respects a woman who wears a badge. Be sincere, no games or bi's pleas. ☎ 71631

FETISHES

Rough Butt Spanking 4 Bad Boys
With hand paddle & strap. Limits respected expanded. Curious, str8, welcome. I have private place, toys. Am 36, HIV- clean cut. All calls returned. Fantasies? ☎ 71632

Seeking Sonoma Co. Show-offs
Mature guy loves being teased by slender guys 18-30 who love to flaunt it. Exhibitionist? Pose for photos? Videotape? Do it in semi-public places? Reward for unique talent. ☎ 71632

I Need Hot Facial Cum Bath
Masculine mature WM seeking J/O partner any age to jerk off your load on my face once or regularly. Will consider small group circle jerk. ☎ 71579

Seriously Into Mutual Nipple Play?
Then let's milk each other's superhero fuckers and nearly faint with unbearable pleasure as we shout huge, ball breaking loads of thick man juice. Sorry, very heavy men. ☎ 71595

Rubber PVC Leather Fetish Action
GWM, 46, 5'6", 135, blond, attractive, seeks another male into rubber, plastic, & leather. Have gear & toys. You must tool! Can travel- Bay Area. ☎ 71616

Asshole Pleasure Machine Btm
Me under your Joy Rider or similar. Bottom feeder's lips, tongue and big mouth your tireless rim machine. Minutes to hours. Special orders, kinks. Your place. All ages. Do it! ☎ 71614

Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top. GWM, 43, 5'9", 160, ol, athletic, HIV-, seeks masc, in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging, erotic bondage. Gags, toys, light S/M. Discreet, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. ☎ 71614

"Fuck Me!"
Very masculine GWM, 42, 6', 175, trim and hairy loves being a bottom. I also give great head and making you cream is what I want. I'm looking for regular fuckbuds or even once is okay. Age, ethnicity and size is not important, if you're a top. ☎ 71635

Young European Boy For Training
Is in search of a master in his 20's or 30's only for any slave training you choose. The boy is very cute, sexy, submissive and eager. ☎ 71633

Daytime Ass-Hole Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71634

Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

Dale Earnhardt Look-A-Like?
Endowed Black but, banger wants you on your back, legs up, lubed and ready for a long pounding. Must be experienced, easy to reach. ☎ 71633

Hanes, Jockey, Fruit Of The Loom
GWM, 45, 185# needs some good long cock sucking while I talk about straight boys in their white underpants. ☎ 71564

OTHERS

Flog With Strap Or Cane...
Englishman, older seeks to receive corporal discipline, rigorously applied. Will switch. Sex ok. Inquire.... ☎ 71580

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE



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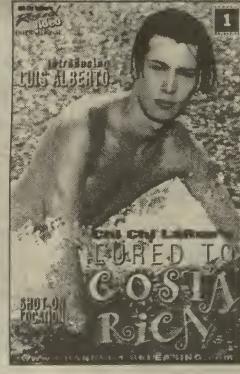
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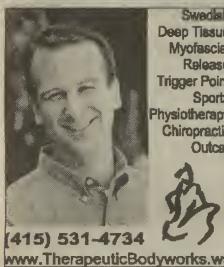
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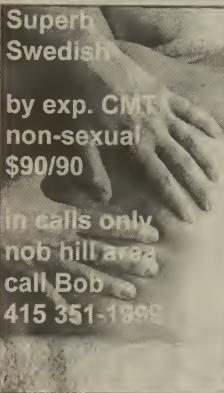
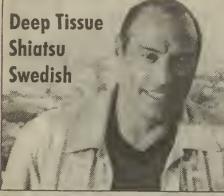
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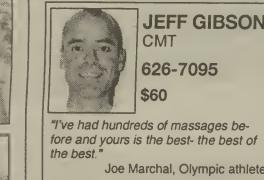
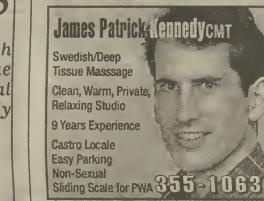
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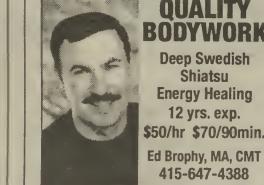
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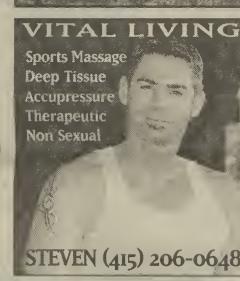
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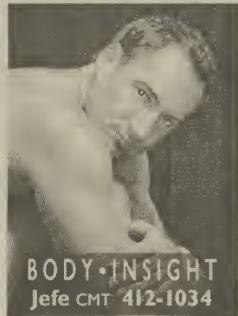
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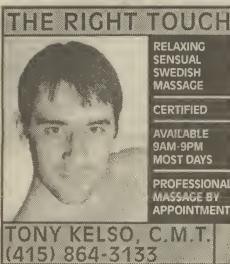
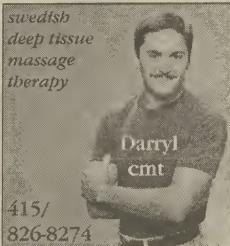
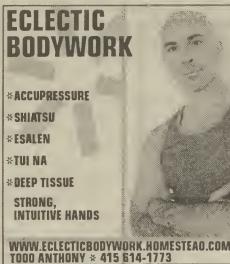
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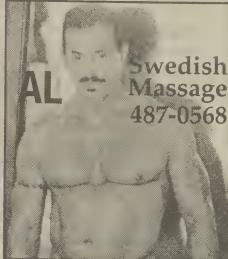
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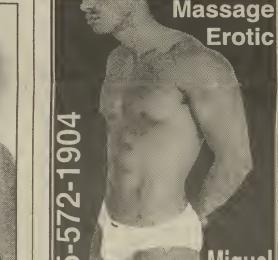
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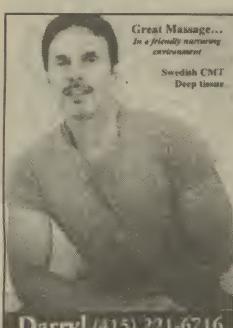
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MASSAGE</p

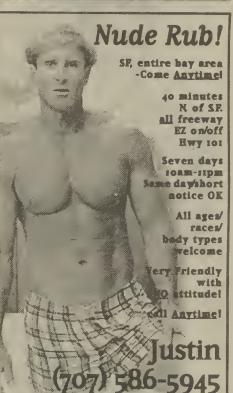
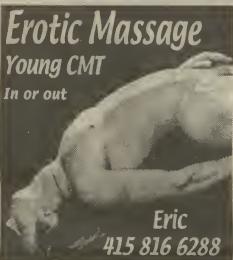
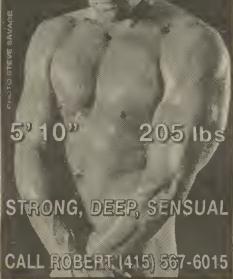
PERSONALS

MASSAGE



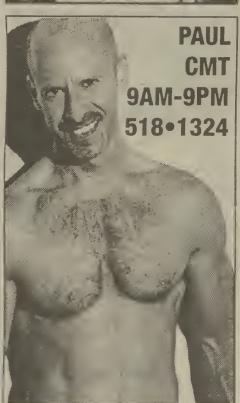
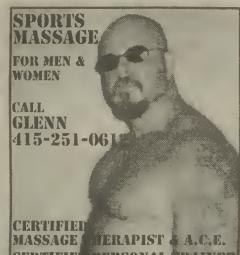
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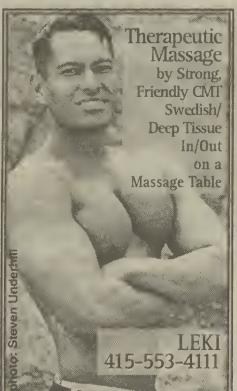
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Handsome Hairy Hung
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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21" A,
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UNCUT 8"-5'9"-165# - HDSM
Hairy * buzz * w/go-t very gd
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Hot stranger-kinky slut. 251 0634 E37

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25yo, 5'11", 172lbs, big uncut,
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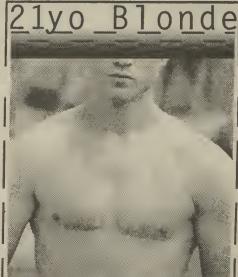
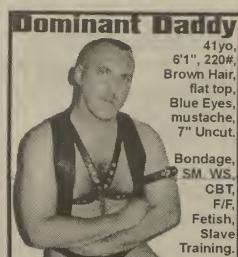
Obedient, vgl, 23, 8.5"+thick, vers

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6ft 165 Smooth
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Handsome* Masculine* Hung* Dude

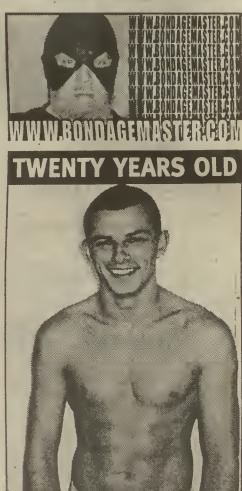
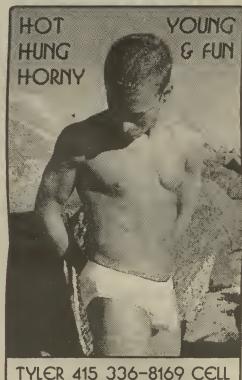
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24 6' 165# hung 10" thick & vgl,
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180lbs
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THANK YOU
Patrick Batt, Bob Brunson and Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt for spearheading the benefit to pay for the Leather Pride Flag for Leather Pride Week. Also thanks to Leather/Levi Weekend officials for the \$1000 donation toward purchase of the flag. E37

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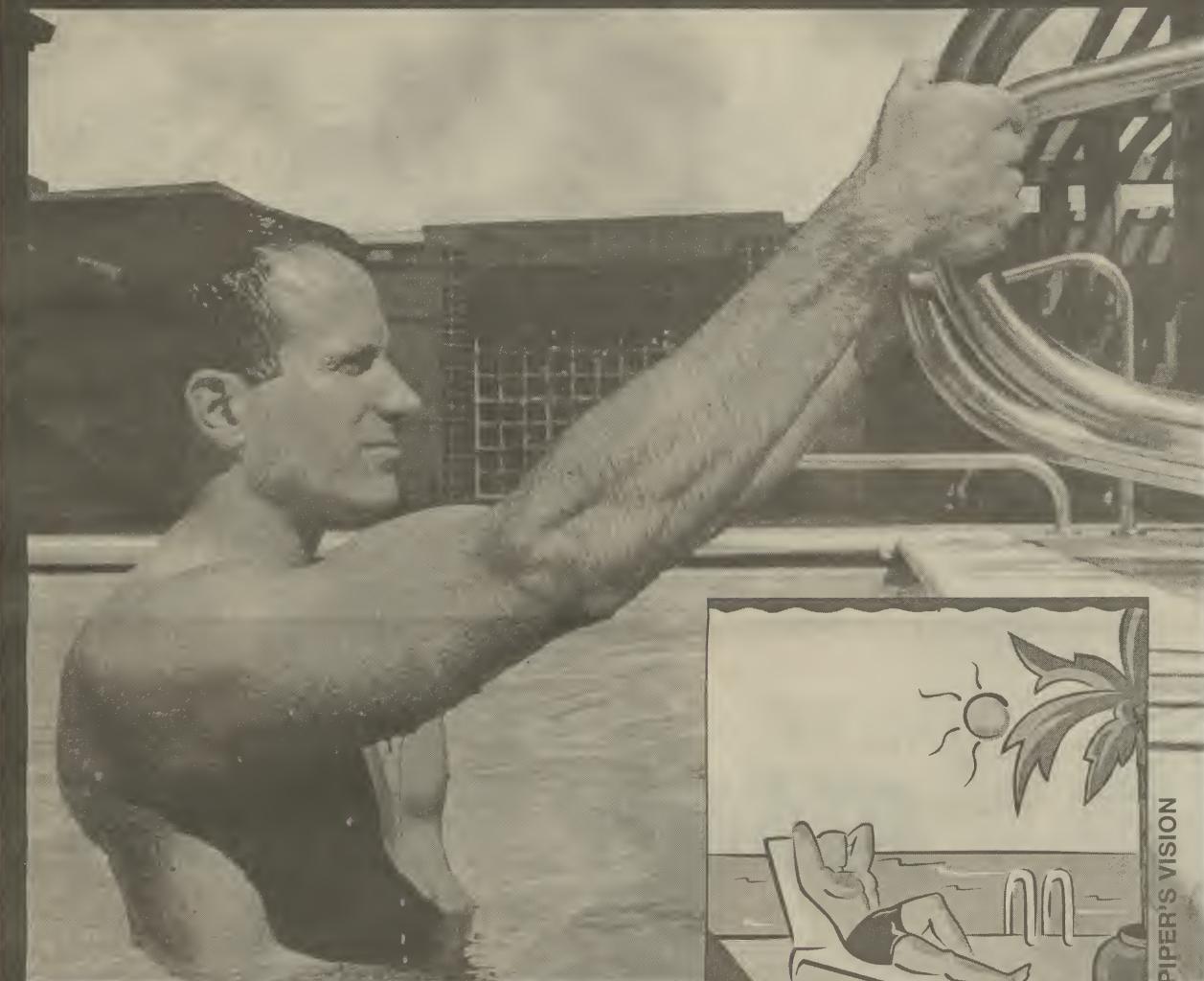
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